

French magazine raises new doubts on Maxwell death

By LYN JENKINS

THE leading French magazine *Paris Match* yesterday published details from a video recording of the second post-mortem examination on Robert Maxwell, carried out just hours before he was buried in Jerusalem.

Photographs of the newspaper publisher lying on the medical table, including close-ups of his face, illustrate the ten-page article which alleges that he was beaten before he died. Last night, a representative from the weekly was in London trying to sell the 80-minute long recording of the four-hour examination to recoup the cost it had

paid to an undisclosed source.

The feature quotes from the conversation between members of the medical team, commissioned by Maxwell's insurers, and publishes conclusions from French experts who believe it shows he suffered severe bruising before he died.

Last night, Dr Iain West, head of forensic medicine at Guy's Hospital, London, who led the team, rejected the findings and said the conclusion drawn were incorrect. "The published extracts are not a correct account. They are just snatches of things said and there is also a problem of translation. It is not accurate to suggest we were saying that his injuries were not

consistent from just falling from a boat."

Paris Match prints photographs taken from the video showing Maxwell's body with three of the medical team around him, as well as close-ups of his face, head and right shoulder alleged to show bruising and abrasions. Snippets of the conversation among the medical team are also quoted, but the conclusions drawn come from a retired pathologist and a leading private criminologist in France.

Dr West, who was called in by insurers to conduct the examination in Israel, said some of the misinterpretation could have come from the difficulty in translating the conversations, conducted in Hebrew and English, into French. "The comments made about the blood - what we were referring to was that there was so much blood following an autopsy. There is no question that it was caused as a result of the first autopsy."

He added: "The examination showed injuries. We were saying some of the injuries could have been caused after death and some could have been caused during recovery of the body." John Fisher, the claims underwriter for the syndicate who wrote the £20 million insurance policy on Maxwell, who was aged 68 when he died at sea, said Dr West had given him no suggestion that the body showed signs of violence.

The original post-mortem examination was conducted by three pathologists on Gran Canaria where Maxwell's body was taken after he disappeared from his yacht *Lady Ghislaine* on November 5. Dr Carlos Lopez de Lamela, who led the team, said he found only three small lesions on the body and was still of the view that Maxwell had suffered heart failure, probably before he went into the water.

Others who saw the body while in the Canary Islands and before it was flown to Israel also said they had seen no evidence of extensive bruising or a broken nose. Sebastian Sanchez, of the undertakers Fucasa, who embalmed the body, said: "His nose was not broken and the only damage was where he had been sewn up and where the helicopter picked him up."

Chris Lafayette, deputy editor of the magazine, said in London last night that he stood by the opinion of the experts who thought Maxwell had suffered blows to the body. Loic le Ribault, he said, was a renowned criminologist and was qualified to give his view.

Julio Claverie, the Maxwell family lawyer in Tenerife, challenged the French experts to produce new evidence to the Spanish court.

Bush wins little from US-Japan trade deals

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

PRESIDENT Bush completed his trade mission to Japan last night with a pair of accords aimed at promoting a world economic recovery, creating jobs in America and adjusting the huge trade imbalance between the two countries.

But while Mr Bush claimed success in his efforts to open the market, businessmen and economists derided the agreements as likely to have little effect on the American recession or its \$41 billion trade deficit with Japan.

Mr Bush, bouncing back to work after his bout of gastritis, insisted yesterday that his talks with Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister, had "led to a levelling of the playing field" for American businessmen seeking more opportunities. "This progress

translates into jobs for the American worker." Mr Miyazawa added that something had to be done to correct the imbalance or "one of the parties concerned may well fall into protectionism".

The two leaders signed a "Tokyo Declaration", pledging economic and political co-operation and measures to stimulate world growth, and an "Action Plan" addressing specific issues. "As the two largest market-oriented economies and democracies in the world, Japan and the United States accept a special responsibility for shaping a new era and resolve to join in a global partnership to help build a just, peaceful and prosperous world," the declaration said.

In the trade talks, Japan's biggest concession came from its car manufacturers, who agreed to double their annual purchases of American car parts to \$19 billion by 1994. They also promised to help to sell 20,000 more American cars. Other concessions involved agreements to make it easier for American computer, glass and paper manufacturers to sell their goods, although there were no specific targets or penalties for Japanese firms that failed to fulfil promises "to make ut-



Tokyo partners: President Bush and Kiichi Miyazawa, Japan's prime minister, shake hands after a trade deal meant to create jobs in America.

most efforts". Asked if the pledges for increased imports were "embarrassingly low", the Ford chairman Harold Ford told journalists: "You're pretty close."

Both Mr Bush and Mr Miyazawa need trade accords to boost their chances in an election year, and their rhetoric masked the hostility of the hours of talks between their negotiators. American business and political leaders claim that numerous market obstacles prevent them from exporting to Japan, while Tokyo counters that it is being made a scapegoat for America's

economic ills. Japanese leaders say American goods do not sell because they are unsuitable or of poor quality. Japan, long branded protectionist, also accused America of violating free trade principles by demanding sales targets for its products in ailing industries. Nicholas Brady, the US Treasury Secretary, further emphasised the tensions when delivering a speech to Japanese MPs on Mr Bush's behalf. "Without progress we may be in for some rough weather," he said. "I must be frank in saying that there are prob-

lems in our economic relationship." The scale of the problem was highlighted by figures issued yesterday showing that Japanese exports for the first 20 days of December exceeded imports by \$2.97 billion - more than three times the surplus recorded in the same period of 1990. Further figures issued by the Japan Automobile Importers' Association showed that sales of all imported vehicles fell by 10.7 per cent last year to 199,922 - just 3 per cent of the total market. American cars accounted for only

30,128 of those sales, and half of those were made at Japanese plants in the US. In the light of such statistics, American businessmen and economists were pessimistic about the impact of the trade pacts - even setting aside the low value generally accorded to Japanese promises. Lee Iacocca, the Chrysler chairman who was one of 18 executives accompanying Mr Bush, mocked the plan to increase American car sales by 20,000. "It doesn't sound like a lot of cars," he said. Jasper Koll, economist at S G Warburg Securities (Ja-

pan), agreed. "The likelihood is that the real economic impact will be negligible and that it will do little to create jobs in the USA." And Robert Feldman of Salomon Brothers Asia, added: "The underlying problems of labour, technology and investment are not solved by a couple of extra billion dollars' worth of auto parts. The real issue is: what is the US doing to become more competitive?"

Bush's fortunes, page 7
Quayle on spot, page 7
Joanna Pitman, page 12
Leading article, page 13

New moves to curb IRA

A Roman Catholic man, aged 28, was shot dead by Loyalists in Northern Ireland yesterday as the government introduced new measures to stem IRA bombings in Belfast.

The announcements were criticised by Unionists who called for a more concerted approach. Sten Fein said it was time the government abandoned its security-led policy and opened talks. Page 2

Second blow for Halford

Alison Halford, Britain's most senior woman police officer, faces a renewed disciplinary enquiry into allegations of drunkenness after being suspended from duty for a second time last night.

Miss Halford, aged 50, faces allegations that she rendered herself unfit through drunkenness while in charge of Merseyside police. Page 3

Flu strikes

Figures to be published today by the Royal College of General Practitioners are likely to reflect a substantial rise in flu cases in Britain. Page 18

Snow havoc

The first severe weather of the year yesterday caused chaos in some areas with roads closed and villages flooded. Up to six inches of snow wrought havoc on roads in mid-Wales. Page 2

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Ravenscraig aid falls foul of EC

By KERRY GILL

THE creation of an enterprise zone in north Lanarkshire to limit the economic and social damage caused by the closure of the Ravenscraig steel plant is not a certainty, it emerged yesterday.

Sir Leon Brittan, the EC commissioner in charge of European competition policy, said any application would need "very careful consideration". He was speaking after many people had come to believe that Brussels had given its backing to the initiative announced yesterday.

Last night, a commission source said that Sir Leon was "hopping mad" that John Major and Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, had announced a £50 million cash injection for the Lanarkshire economy without any apparent reference to EC rules.

Although EC officials emphasised that Brussels was not prejudiced against awarding the stricken area enterprise status, Sir Leon was concerned about "high-level" comments that indicated it was simply a matter for the government to decide. He said: "We have not so far had formal notification of a request to set up such an enterprise zone. We will give it careful consideration when we receive an application."

Yesterday, workers at Ravenscraig, where some 1,200 will be made redundant, were urged to continue to fight the planned closure despite the obvious hopelessness of any campaign. "It would be crazy to give up now," said a campaigner.

Aid resentment, page 2

Conservatives pin hopes on a radical manifesto

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

RADICALISM allied with simplicity will be the hallmark of the next Conservative manifesto, senior party sources disclosed yesterday as the prime minister and senior cabinet colleagues spent the day at Downing Street putting the finishing touches to the programme on which they will base their appeal for a fourth term in power.

John Major was joined by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, Chris Patten, the party chairman, Richard Ryder, the chief whip, and John Wakeham, the energy secretary and cabinet publicity chief, for a series of meetings with ministers about the contents of the manifesto and Budget strategy.

Privatisation plans, reform of trade union and employ-

ment law, more generous tax treatment of inheritance, savings and working mothers, and a renewed effort to tackle crime are thought to have been high on the agenda.

Mr Major discussed the Budget with Mr Lamont in advance of the Treasury's weekend meeting at Chevening in Kent. They are thought to have pencilled in March 3 as a likely Budget date, an arrangement that keeps open the option of an election as early as April 9.

The Downing Street summit, which continues today, came as the Liberal Democrats hit the pre-election campaign trail by unveiling a £3.3 billion package to reduce unemployment by 400,000 in a year. Paddy Ashdown, the party's leader, emphasised

that he was offering "no quick fixes" and that it would take time to reverse 13 years of "Tory destruction". The next election would be a last chance for the British people to change the political system through proportional representation and create a stable and prosperous economy.

At Downing Street, ministers took the opportunity to advance their ideas for the Budget. Ministers are divided over the wisdom of a 1p cut in the basic rate of income tax. With Labour committed to restoring any reductions, some ministers are pointing to the attractions of further

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Peter Riddell, page 12
Leading article, page 13

Top dogs turn up noses at barking doctor

By CRAIG SETON AND NICK NUTTALL

FINDING a barking dog among the 19,895 at Crufts should not have been difficult, but it proved so yesterday at the opening of the annual show, where an animal behaviourist attempted to demonstrate that noisy canines could be silenced by a whiff of a new French perfume.

Roger Mugford, of the Behaviour Centre, Chertsey, Surrey, was at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, to launch a device called Abolistop, designed to be worn like a collar and release a puff of a lemon aroma the moment a microphone picks up a bark.

The trouble with Crufts' well-bred dogs yesterday was that many were quiet well-behaved veterans of the show ring and disinclined to bark at a stranger's command. Dr Mugford, seeking to demonstrate the device to journalists, resorted to barking himself, successfully activating the device, before a keen-eyed television crew heard a dog yap-

ping in another hall several hundred yards away. The noisy collie was sought out and duly rendered silent by a whiff of the artificial perfume, whose canine-calming qualities were discovered by a French vet. It later started barking again, but Dr Mugford said two or three whiffs usually did the trick.

"At the heart of the device, a plastic unit about the size of a big matchbox, is a pressurised reservoir which is topped up from an aerosol through a valve. A tiny battery, a valve and a microphone combine to ensure a half-second dose for any offending wearer. Once a dog began barking, said Dr Mugford, whose device sells at £30 plus VAT, it would fire every two seconds until peace prevailed. "We can vary the sound intensity that gets it going. If you have kennels under the flight path of Gatwick you might set it to work at a higher level." Dr Mugford suggested helpfully. Surveys carried out among the

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Crufts results, page 2



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Gunmen kill Catholic as security net is criticised

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A ROMAN Catholic man was shot dead in Northern Ireland yesterday as the government faced further criticism over new security measures in Belfast designed to deter IRA bombings.

He was hit by gunmen who drew up outside a mobile shop where he was working at a roadside near Moira, County Down. He was taken to hospital in Lisburn but died shortly afterwards.

The killing is the second of the year in the province and is likely to have been the work of the Loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force. Police said that the victim had no connections with the security forces and they were treating the murder as sectarian.

In Belfast, serious traffic congestion was caused throughout the day by new security measures designed to stop IRA van bombings of the city centre, which have caused serious damage six times in the last eight weeks.

After a meeting between Sir John Wilsey, the General Officer Commanding and Sir Hugh Annesley, the chief constable of the RUC on Wednesday night, several hundred part-time members of the Ulster Defence Regiment were put on full-time duty to operate new checkpoints in support of the RUC. Other soldiers and police were also redeployed to Bel-

fast and other areas of the province. The police said that the new measures, which temporarily increase the full-time element in the UDR for the second time in as many months, involved mobile and some new permanent vehicle checkpoints that would be manned round-the-clock. The new measures would be kept under constant review.

Some unionists gave the strategy a guarded welcome but Ken Maginnes, Ulster Unionist Party security spokesman, said moving security resources to Belfast would simply leave the IRA free to operate elsewhere with greater effect.

Mr Maginnes said it should not be the public which suffers the inconvenience of extra security but the IRA, and he called for the re-introduction of internment to dismantle the provisionals' command structure. "The fact that these new measures were forced on the security services epitomises the lack of political courage in the Northern Ireland Office and the government in general in the battle against terrorism," he added.

Nigel Dodds, unionist lord mayor of Belfast, said new measures should be introduced province-wide. The government's decision before Christmas to withdraw from Northern Ireland a tempo-



Monitoring role: police officers yesterday manning one of the new checkpoints introduced to support the RUC in Belfast

rarily assigned extra battalion of troops from the mainland was a "serious error of judgement".

However, although the military and police forces have said privately that more regular troops should be posted to the province, Peter Brooke, the secretary of state, said the decision was taken by General Wilsey and Sir Hugh Annesley. "You might take the view, with hindsight, that a different decision could have been taken," he added.

Sinn Féin said the new strategy in Belfast would only erode civil liberties further and worsen the situation. Martin McGuinness, a senior spokesman for the party, said it was time Britain realised that the conflict could

only be solved through a political dialogue with all parties involved. "The British government must find the courage to accept that political reality."

Mr Brooke promised yesterday that there would be "no let-up" by the security forces in the fight against the IRA (Michael Evans writes). The police and armed forces would have the resources they needed to undertake their "difficult and dangerous work", he said.

Speaking at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies, London, he said the recent series of "hit-for-hit" sectarian murders had spread fear on both sides of the community.



Armed response: soldiers in the Falls Road at a 24-hour checkpoint

Careful channelling of cash identified as crucial for Ravenscraig

Urban aid 'could breed resentment'

By TIM JONES AND RAY CLANCY

THE government was warned yesterday that the £4,000 million it spends annually on combating inner city and urban deprivation could breed resentment and misunderstanding unless it was properly directed.

The warning, by Dr Robert Rogerson, of Strathclyde University, followed John Major's announcement of urgent measures to assist central Scotland's economy in an attempt to limit the political damage from British Steel's decision to close the Ravenscraig steel complex near Glasgow.

Dr Rogerson, research director of the geography department's quality of life unit, said his research indicated that, in general, the plethora of aid schemes available to deprivation areas worked remarkably well. "There are, however, dangers that financial incentives benefit inward commuters instead of local people because of the levels of skills required by the new companies. This can make local people feel neglected. London docklands is a prime example of this."

Dr Rogerson said it was crucial that any initiative aimed at reviving an area such as Ravenscraig should be concerned with retraining and introducing new skills to the indigenous work force. "It is also crucial that any initiatives include a large element of improving the quality of homes for people as our research shows this is perhaps the single biggest element in the perception of improved life style."

Britain 1992, the 43rd handbook from the Central Office of Information, shows in that 1990-1 urban programmes supported 471 new firms, helped to create or preserve 38,000 jobs and supported 80,000 inner city

training places. It improved 6,000 buildings and 1,600 hectares of unsightly land as well as 82,000 improvement schemes for dwellings.

An analysis of where urban programmes have been introduced or targeted shows concentrations in central Scotland, the Midlands and inner London. According to the report, these are the areas most in need and councils have received 75 per cent grants towards projects directed at economic, social, environmental and housing problems.

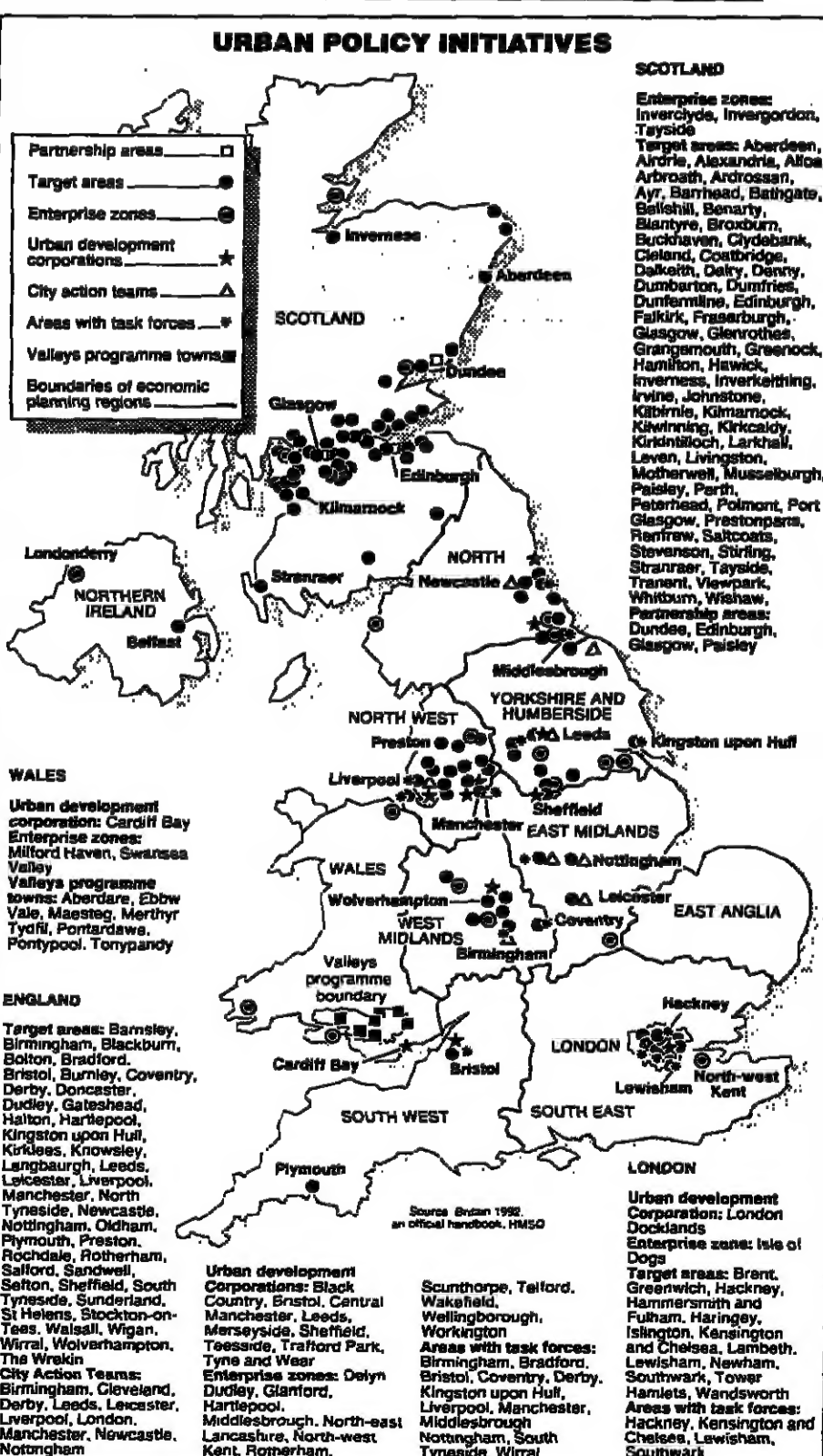
The schemes range from the Programme for the Valleys, designed to breathe new life into the old coal mining communities of south Wales, to seven "elite" partnership authorities in Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle upon Tyne, Birmingham and four London areas where the problems are most acute. These place an emphasis on economic and environmental improvements as a key to self-sustaining regeneration.

The report paints an optimistic picture for the future of urban areas and predicts a continuation of successful programmes. It says that a further four projects will be set up this year to join 17 already established to help communities tackle crime related problems.

Spending on the urban programme in Wales is expected to be £38 million in 1991-2 with priority given to the ten most deprived urban areas. Efforts in Scotland are focusing on four partnerships led by the Scottish Office, and the government plans to spend £450 million in urban Scotland in 1991-2.

The report adds: "Sustainable urban regeneration depends, however, upon the commitment of all those with an interest in the well being of the area."

EC setback, page 1



Two die in rain and snow storms

By DAVID YOUNG

THE first severe weather of the year caused chaos yesterday with roads closed and villages flooded. Two people died on the roads.

Up to six inches of snow wrought havoc on roads in mid-Wales while floods hit parts of Gloucestershire, Hereford and Worcester, and Shropshire.

A man died in a crash involving a car and lorry on the storm-battered M4 near Chippenham, Wiltshire, and a woman died and two people were injured on the A343 at Hurstbourne Tarrant, near Andover, Hampshire, when two vehicles collided head-on in heavy rain.

The National Rivers Authority gave a warning that the river Teme, a tributary of the river Severn, could rise 18ft above normal overnight and there were fears that the Severn would burst its banks. The NRA is also concerned that the Eye Brook reservoir,

near Oakham, Leicestershire might overflow and flooding farm land, homes and buildings.

Snow blocked the main A470 road over the Brecon Beacons at Libanus and police said other routes in the area were passable only with extreme caution because strong winds were causing drifting.

Floods closed the railway linking Manchester with Cardiff at Pontillas in Worcester and Hereford. The damaged track is not expected to re-open before the weekend.

In south Wales police closed the Severn Bridge to lorries and coaches. Motorists around Abergavenny, Usk and Pontypool had to cope with flooding. In Gloucestershire, several main roads were closed by flooding and snow fell on high ground in the Cotswolds and Forest of Dean.

A pregnant woman was plucked from her floating car as it was being carried away by surging floodwater yesterday. Jackie Owen, 28, was pulled through the window by rescuer Phil Davies as the car floated along a village street like a boat. She ran into the flood in the early morning darkness.

Some of the worst flooding was in Cheltenham where the river Chelt burst its banks and in the Forest of Dean the main Gloucester to Lydney road was closed. West Mercia police said the Worcester to Stratford-upon-Avon road was closed by floodwater and flooding was reported on many roads in Shropshire.

The storms also disrupted Irish Sea ferry crossings operated by Sealink. Sailings between Holyhead, Anglesey, and Dun Laoghaire, near Dublin, and Fishguard, Dyfed, and Rosslare, in County Wexford, were cancelled or delayed.

Forecast, page 18

Legal threat at school

THE governors of an opt-out school were threatened with a High Court action yesterday if they did not reinstate a headmistress suspended for alleged misconduct (John O'Leary writes).

Anne Snelling, who only became head last April when Stratford School, east London, assumed grant main status, was suspended on the first day of the new term. The school has refused to comment on the allegations, which follow differences over the division of responsibilities between the head and governors.

The National Association of Head Teachers yesterday instructed its solicitors to demand Mrs Snelling's reinstatement. "She and we utterly refuse any suggestion of misconduct on her part," the association said.

Dispute on road building reopens

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

CARLO Ripa di Meana, the European environment commissioner, last night reopened the dispute between London and Brussels over British road construction schemes on which he has asked for work to stop.

The government's reaction to his request last October, which referred among other schemes to the M3 extension through Twyford Down in Hampshire and the highway which is to cut through the ancient Chiltern Wood in London, had been immediate, he said, and some of it had left a bitter taste in his mouth. He said bluntly that the government's position was wrong.

Signor Ripa di Meana's request for work to stop on the construction schemes was made in a letter to Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, which accompanied a formal letter opening proceedings against Britain for alleged infringement of European law in not carrying out proper environmental impact assessments of the projects. It provoked a dismissive reaction from the government.

Last night he said the government was wrong in thinking that the EC law in question did not apply to the schemes because they were already in the pipeline when the law was brought in.

Britain was not being singled out for special treatment, Signor Ripa di Meana added. Proceedings were in hand against ten other states.

Open verdict on drowned wife

An open verdict was recorded yesterday on the wife of Prince William's personal detective, who was found drowned. Carole Craker, aged 42, of Broomfield, Hertfordshire, was discovered in a lake at Nazeing, Essex, on December 13 last year, an inquest at Epping was told. She had disappeared eight days earlier.

Malcolm Weir, the coroner, was told that Mrs Craker, who was separated from Det Sergeant Graham Craker, suffered bouts of depression. But he said: "Certainly, there is no indication she took her own life and it would be inappropriate to bring a verdict of suicide."

Campaign over gay ministers

Three leading Methodist ministers who fear that homosexuals and bisexuals could be allowed to become ministers without any challenge, have launched a campaign to reaffirm traditional teachings on sexuality.

In an open letter to working ministers they say that church members are "bewildered and distressed" by the current debate on sexuality. They have paid for the letter to be distributed to 2,000 methodists and for its publication in today's Methodist Recorder.

The campaign comes when most mainstream churches are struggling with increasingly liberal views on sexuality.

Russian leads

Evgeny Bareev, the Russian grandmaster, held on to his lead in the 11th round of the Foreign and Colonial Grandmaster chess tournament at Hastings, when he outplayed his compatriot Alexei Suetens. Two British grandmasters, Julian Hodgson, the reigning British champion, and Jon Speelman were defeated but Murray Chandler drew with Alexei Shirov, who played under the Latvian flag.

Post warning

Post Office services will decline unless the separate letters, counters and parcels businesses are better coordinated, the Post Office Users' National Council said yesterday.

Tom Corrigan, the council's chairman, added, however, that the quality of service in the post office had shown "an encouraging improvement", particularly in long-distance mail.

Potato giant

A potato grown in Saudi Arabia and claimed to be the biggest in the world has been flown to Britain for authentication and a possible place in the Guinness Book of Records. Weighing 30lb and the size of a football it beats by far the current record of 7lb 10oz set 29 years ago in Spalding, Lincolnshire. Two air hostesses were needed to carry the potato from the aircraft.

Queen's gundogs win at Crufts

THREE of the Queen's gundogs - Sandringham Hill, Garry of Tay and East Leigh Flint - were in a team of labradors that won the BASC gamekeepers' regional title at Crufts yesterday.

Irish red and white setter Sh Ch Spearpoint Sambooka Flame (S J Humphreys, Chippenham); Retriever (labrador) Sh Ch Rocheby Popcorn (D M Hopkinson, Syring, Dorchester); Spaniel (American cocker) Am Can Ch, Sh Ch Piper Hill's King Arthur at Sundisi (Y J M Knapper, Ferndown, Dorset); Spaniel (English springer) Sh Ch Raycroft Socialie (R Dunne, Co Cavan); Spaniel (Irish red and white) Sh Ch Owen Glynn of Robil (K & L Carter, Liverpool); Retriever (Welsh springer) Sh Ch Russell's Royal Salute over Furness (T Graham, Alkham in Furness, Cumbria); German short haired pointer: Sh Ch Jennaline Kemish Krumpet (J Jennings, Market Harborough).

Britany: Sonenberg Viking (N B Reeves, Pershore, H & W); English setter: Sh Ch Starline Express of Valen (J W Watkin, Spalding, Lincs); German short haired pointer: Sh Ch Jennaline Kemish Krumpet (J Jennings, Market Harborough).

Gravensend, Kent: Irish setter: Dunnygask Vital Spark (A M Harvey, Kincardine-on-Forth, Fife); Italian spoodle: Nantidren Franchetti (V Rossier, Tebury, Glouce); Retriever (golden): Ch Sansuc Golden Ruler (V Birkin, Newthorpe, Salop); Retriever (Irish water): Sh Ch Fynder Blaise (M R Barrington-Manuel, Cinderford, Glouce); Spaniel (Welsh springer): Solva Arabella U M Luckett-Roydon, Reading; Spaniel (field): Sh Ch Ganeff Fenella at Moroto (E G Morgan, Llanelli, Dyfed); Pointer: Sh Ch Christen Morning Star (D Lawson, Spalding, Lincs); Weimaraner: Linusa Lilli Luce (A Gates, Sheffield); Retriever (flatcoat): Gay Plume Dixie (H C Murray, Clapham, Beds); Irish red and white setter: Sh Ch Carrickgerry of Autumnwood (P Bridgen, Caterham, Surrey).

Barbking doctor, page 1

Midland councils to run local railway

By JOHN LEWIS

A £16 million passenger rail network to be run by local authorities in the Midlands, was approved yesterday by the transport department. Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, announced that the government would provide £4 million toward the service, which will run eventually between Loughborough and Derby.

Leicestershire and Derbyshire county councils propose to build or restore 16 stations on the Ivanhoe line, upgrading a mineral line between Burton on Trent and Leicester and adding track where it runs as a single

line. Work is expected to start next year.

Scheduled services, using Sprinter trains bought by the local authorities and driven by British Rail drivers, is planned for 1994. The project is expected to take about three years.

The Ivanhoe line was closed in 1964 as part of the Beeching cuts. Proposals to reopen the service for passenger transport between Burton and Leicester were extended to include the main line to Derby, with a new station at Willington to service the Toyota plant at Burnaston, Derbyshire. It is

also planned to build or reopen stations at Barrow upon Soar, Sileby and Syston between Leicester and Loughborough.

Leicestershire and Derbyshire councils will run the service in the hope of generating northwest Leicestershire and Derbyshire's industrial development areas.

Other councils have expressed interest in similar plans. Nottingham and Derbyshire councils are considering reopening the Nottingham to Worksop Robin Hood line, giving Mansfield a rail service for the first time since the 1960s. Eric

Swain, chairman of Derbyshire highways and transport committee, last night welcomed the announcement. "More investment in public transport is essential as we move towards the 21st century. The Ivanhoe line will provide a direct link from northwest Leicestershire and the Swadincote area to the industrial areas of Derby."

Tommy Thompson, Leicestershire's planning and transportation director, said the county expected the scheme to help to revive former mining communities in northwest Leicestershire.

Allegations spelt out as top policewoman is suspended again

By PETER DAVENPORT

ALISON Halford, assistant chief constable of Merseyside and one of Britain's most senior female officers, was yesterday suspended from duty once again, less than a month after a High Court judge said an earlier decision to order her off work was unlawful.

Merseyside police authority, which took the decision yesterday after almost four hours of discussion behind closed doors, also made public for the first time the allegation that Miss Halford had

been drunk on duty while the senior officer in charge of the entire force on a July day in 1990.

The authority decided to suspend Miss Halford, aged 51, again and order a complete new investigation into the allegations against her, to be carried out by the deputy chief constable of South Wales and supervised by the Police Complaints Authority.

Miss Halford, a policewoman for 29 years, was first suspended 13 months ago shortly after she began an

action claiming that sexual discrimination by senior officers and the Home Office had blocked her path to further promotion. That case is yet to be heard by an industrial tribunal.

The original suspension followed allegations of neglect of duty, disrespectful conduct and falsehood, and centred around an alleged "life-saving" demonstration in the swimming pool at a businessman's home in Wirral, Cheshire, during which she was said to have stripped to her underwear.

In December last year Mr Justice Macpherson in the High Court said that the decision by senior officers of the police authority to delegate her case to a special committee had "the smell of unfairness about it" and that the authority had acted beyond its mandate.

Miss Halford could have insisted on returning to work immediately after the judgment. It was understood, however, that she wanted to await the outcome of yesterday's meeting.

In a statement the authority said it believed it had now complied with procedures and insisted that the allegations should be independently investigated. It said it had decided to disclose details of the allegations "in order to inject some accuracy into the public arena".

Miss Halford's alleged activities are all said to have occurred on July 24, 1990, while she was a senior duty officer in charge of the Merseyside force and responsible for such decisions as the issuing of firearms. There are four allegations against her.

Allegation one: that she neglected her duty by attending private premises for social reasons, failing to return to duty at all and failing to make contact with the force or report her whereabouts.

Allegation two: that she was drunk while on duty on the same day, rendering herself unfit to carry out her duties.

Allegation three: that she had indulged in discreditable conduct by offering force transport and hospitality to others when it had not been approved or justified and by spending time in a swimming pool with a male officer while dressed only in their underwear and subsequently spending time together in a Jacuzzi.

Allegation four: that she had lied in connection with the allegations in statements she later made to her chief constable and a Sunday newspaper.

The statement concluded that it had been decided that Miss Halford should remain suspended from duty on full pay.

Miss Halford's lawyers said she believed it was inappropriate to comment at this time.

Halford expected a rough battle

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

ALISON Halford, one of Britain's most senior policewomen, always knew that there would be a price to pay for taking a tough stand in a man's world. She recognised that a sex discrimination case against the police would be "very rough and very dirty", with her private life under scrutiny.

Since she began her claim, alleging that she was barred from promotion through sexual discrimination, Miss Halford's expectation has been vindicated by a series of damaging allegations highlighting the depth of feeding her case has fuelled.

Just days before a preliminary hearing in 1990, allegations appeared in a tabloid newspaper that she had sworn in her underwear after drinks at a businessman's house while on duty. She was suspended on full pay from her £50,000-a-year job and faced disciplinary hearings.

Shortly after her suspension in December 1990, and less than a month before the start of her sex discrimination case, a leaked memo drafted by James Sharples, chief constable of Merseyside, discussed rumours of Miss Halford having a lesbian relationship. Part of the memo, written in November 1989, and published by *The Sunday Times*, read: "For some time there has been gossip and innuendo in the force about Miss Halford's private life. She has a friendship with a female member of the civilian personnel section... The gossip and innuendo is to the effect that they are living together and that the relationship is an improper one."

Within days, Miss Halford was traced to Malaga, where she was on holiday with Jan Lee, who works for Merseyside police. Miss Halford denied any impropriety in their relationship and said that Miss Lee looked after her dogs and cats when she was working. Miss Halford said that the address of her holiday home was known only to

a few people inside the force and to certain people on Merseyside police authority.

At about the same time, George Bundred, chairman of the police authority, withdrew from participation in any disciplinary process against Miss Halford after an allegation that he had described her as a lesbian.

Last month, Miss Halford won a High Court ruling against disciplinary proceedings being brought against her. Afterwards, Rex Makin, her solicitor, said that the case against her was motivated by perceptions that she was a lesbian. "There is a personal vendetta being waged against Miss Halford which has a homophobic nature," he said.

Miss Halford alleged sex discrimination after applying in March 1990 for the post of deputy chief constable of Northamptonshire. She was not invited for an interview. It was the fourth time she had



Halford: suspended from £50,000 job

not been considered when seeking promotion to the next rank. Part of her case, due to be heard in May, is that she was not even shortlisted.

In *Police Review*, in 1987, Miss Halford suggested inability among senior policemen to cope with a woman of comparable rank. "She is given little of the support, guidance or empathy which would be afforded a newly promoted male assistant chief constable," Miss Halford wrote.

Police target new drug

By PAUL WILKINSON

CUSTOMS and police are to target the "designer" drug Ecstasy and its derivatives this year as a substantial threat to society. Seizures of the drug, whose effects are often fatal, increased last year by 3,500 per cent.

Douglas Twiddle, the customs chief investigative officer, announcing figures for drug seizures during 1991, said that 473kg of the drug, worth about £33 million, had been confiscated, including one haul of 1.2 million tablets, each with a street value of £20, found inside a sofa imported from The Netherlands through Sheerness in Kent. Police had effectively shut down production lines in Britain, and suppliers were turning to European sources.

At least six deaths last year could be directly attributed to Ecstasy and other related drugs, he said.

Cocaine seizures by customs officers almost doubled last year, rising by 89.1 per cent to 1,061kg, valued at £138 million, topping one tonne for the first time.

Gillian Shephard, the Treasury minister responsible for the customs service, said there was little evidence that UK consumption of cocaine had increased dramatically and no evidence it had risen in line with the growth in seizures.

Charity flies the flag for barn owls

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A CAMPAIGN to protect the barn owl from the ravages of intensive farming was launched yesterday by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

The society estimates that there are fewer than 5,000 breeding pairs, compared with 12,000 before the second world war. The decline is blamed mainly on the loss of rough pasture where the birds hunt.

Intensive farming, stimulated by subsidies paid to farmers under the European Community's common agricultural policy, has led to the ploughing of large areas of rough grazing and their replacement with arable crops. The removal of hedgerows has further reduced the supply of food for barn owls, which have also lost traditional nesting sites as barns and other farm

buildings have been converted into homes.

Poisons put down to control rats and mice around farm buildings, where owls often come to feed in cold weather, have also reduced numbers.

The society is appealing for £380,000 to support its barn owl "recovery plan" over the next four years, aimed at increasing the number of barn owls by at least 50 per cent by 2010.

Graham Wynne, director of conservation, said: "The plight of the barn owl is symbolic of the larger plight of our wildlife and countryside heritage. The need to reform the common agricultural policy provides an opportunity to promote new environmentally-sensitive farming methods to restore wildlife habitats."

The society believes that the policy of "set aside", whereby farmers are paid to take arable land out of production, can be helpful to birds and other wildlife. Mr Wynne said that the government should introduce payments to encourage farmers to create wildlife habitats on their set-aside land.

Part of the money the society hopes to raise will be spent on research at three sites in Suffolk which are home to barn owls.

Leading article, page 13



The barn owl: appeal aims to halt decline



17 OXFORD COMMITTEE FOR FAMINE RELIEF
GIFT SHOP AND COLLECTING CENTRE

OXFORD COMMITTEE FOR FAMINE RELIEF
GIFT SHOP AND COLLECTING CENTRE

FAMINE RELIEF
GIFT SHOP
EVERYTHING ON SALE HAS BEEN GIVEN

A hungry Greek girl in Athens in 1943, left, was among the first of thousands worldwide to benefit from the work of the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief. Now known as Oxfam and established in over 70 countries, the charity is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Its first shop, above right, opened in 1948 at Broad Street, Oxford, and is still there. To celebrate its 50th anniversary, the charity yesterday launched a plague of frogs fronted by Leaping, a Spitting Image-type puppet. Until February 29, leap day, Oxfam's frogs will be trying to persuade as many people as possible to give some of the year's extra time to raise money (Alison Roberts writes).

Sponsored events, all with a froggy theme, include a 1,000-mile leap-frog around the country and the "Oleapic Challenge" involving teams of sports celebrities challenging amateurs to beat leap-frogging times.

Each minute the public spends helping Oxfam this year will be displayed on a giant mobile clock which will tour the country. John Magrath, a spokesman for Oxfam, said: "We want to log in the equivalent of one million days." A target of £10 million has also been set for the year.

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Lib Dems launch election campaign with PR pledge

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Liberal Democrats yesterday spelt out their election strategy, proposing a £3.3 billion programme for national recovery which, the party claimed, would create 400,000 jobs in 12 months.

Paddy Ashdown, party leader, speaking at the National Liberal Club, London, stressed he was offering "no quick fixes or slick solutions", and said it would take time to reverse 13 years of "Tory destruction".

He made clear that the party would be fighting the election on constitutional reform, a stable economy and greater investment in training and education, which could result in a one penny increase in income tax.

The party's recovery programme, *The First Steps*, pledges to achieve national recovery by the year 2000 by increasing capital spending on transport, housing and schools, expanding conservation projects and investing in training.

Other plans include:

□ A fair votes system for parliamentary elections as a first step towards constitutional reform.

□ To make the Bank of England independent and put the pound into the narrow band of the exchange rate mechanism to ensure long-term control over inflation.

□ Environmental grants, subsidies and tax allowances to reduce pollution and conserve energy.

□ A programme to improve education and training using an increased proportion of national wealth, focusing on pre-school children, 16 to 18-year-olds and adults.

□ Investment in local community services with more spending on health, pensions and social security.

□ Decisive steps towards full economic monetary and political union in Europe.

Mr Ashdown insisted that he would not be drawn into a slanging match during the election campaign. "I will have no part in a negative battle of insults, half-truths and manipulations."

However, he said it was not surprising that the public felt betrayed by the government. "All over Britain, millions of people have seen the illusion of a Conservative economic miracle vanish before their

eyes like the morning dew." The next election would be "a last-chance election" for the British public, he said. "The last chance to create a stable and prosperous economy, to invest in education and training, to mean business about environmental protection, to put Britain at the heart of Europe and to change the political system."

Pressed on the difference between Labour and Liberal Democrat policies Mr Ashdown claimed that Labour had not committed itself to constitutional reform or a bill of rights. In addition Labour did not favour moving to the narrow band of the ERM and had no anti-inflationary measures to control increased demand. The Liberal Democrats would use "a twin-track" approach, stimulating the economy while controlling the inflationary consequences this would create.

Unlike the other parties, the Liberal Democrats would also present a fully-costed manifesto, "a menu with prices", he said. The party has already said that its £1.9 billion education package could add 1p to income tax, al-

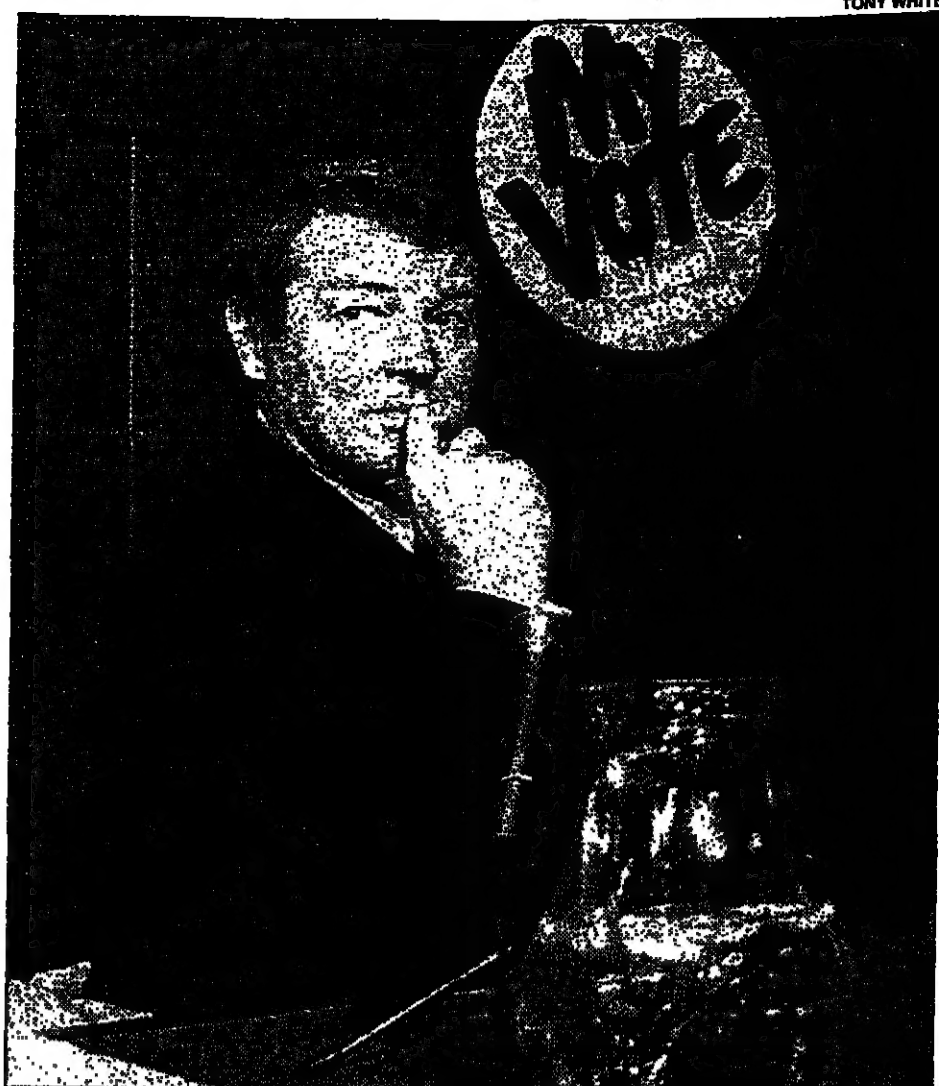
though promises of extra spending on health and social security have yet to be costed.

Mr Ashdown admitted that under his party the tax threshold would be raised, but it would not penalise those earning between £22,000 and £27,000. A top rate of 50 per cent would be introduced with a 33 per cent rate set at £33,000.

Des Wilson, the Liberal Democrat's campaign director, insisted that the party would press home its ideas for constitutional reform and proportional representation right through the election campaign. In past elections the party had attempted to raise the issue for a couple of days and then had "chickened out", dropping it in favour of topics highlighted by the other parties.

Unveiling the party's election logo, an orange circle bearing the words "My vote", Mr Wilson said that the party would fight every seat in England, Scotland and Wales with campaigns on unemployment, health and constitutional reform.

Leading article, page 13



Vote for me: Paddy Ashdown at the National Liberal Club yesterday

Kinnock tax pledge dismissed as a myth

BY PETER MULLIGAN

LABOUR's plan to abolish the national insurance upper earnings limit will hit people on average earnings, not just those on higher salaries, the government said yesterday.

Michael Jack, junior social security minister, attacked as a myth Neil Kinnock's pledge that only those earning more than £20,000 a year would be affected. He said that at least three million people would lose out under the "pickpocket tax" which would take 9 per cent of income over £390 a week in national insurance contributions.

Those hit hardest would be on modest incomes whose earnings fluctuated during the year due to commission, bonuses, overtime or profit related pay. Mr Jack told a press conference in London. Because national insurance was calculated weekly or monthly, those who earned more than £390 in a week or £1,690 in a month, would be caught.

He said that a computer salesman earning £12,000 a year, plus more than £5,000 in commission on monthly sales, could find himself £231.30 a year worse off. A crane driver on £17,492, paid weekly, including £3,734 overtime, would lose £110.16 a year, while an engineer earning £19,926, including £5,000 of profit related pay, would lose £444.68 a year.

"None of these people earn more than £20,000 a year. Labour promised them they would be no worse off. The truth is they would hammer them," Mr Jack said. "People should sit down with a piece of paper and a calculator and work out if they are on Labour's hit list," he said.

"People are being lulled into a false sense of security — that they are not going to be affected by the removal of the upper earnings limit, whereas Labour's hand could be in their pocket at any time and they may not be aware of it."

Helicopters cost queried

SIR John Bourn, the auditor general, demanded cuts yesterday in the £400 million annual bill for repairing Britain's 800 military helicopters (Sheila Gunn writes).

An investigation by the National Audit Office discovered that repair costs varied across the country. There were also long delays in carrying out many repairs. One crashed Sea King helicopter, worth £4.7 million, was out of service for 15 months before work began. The repairs took another 12 months.

Sir John said the defence department had been slow to realise significant savings and that there was room for improvement.

National Audit Office report: Helicopter Maintenance (Stationery Office, £6.15)

Devolution pushed by Labour

BY KERRY GILL

LABOUR yesterday began a pre-election campaign aimed at putting devolution and the introduction of a Scottish parliament at the top of the political agenda in Scotland.

Labour will argue that it is the only party able to deliver a degree of self-government in spite of the various promises held out by the Scottish National Party and the Liberal Democrats.

Donald Dewar, Labour's Scottish affairs spokesman, said: "The pledge to set up a Scottish parliament is central to our programme, not just in Scotland, but nationally. It will give Scots the right to run Scotland's domestic affairs while retaining our links with the United Kingdom." The parliament would have absolute control over the Scottish Office budget, and would have administrative and legislative responsibility, he said.

Labour has been irked by the tactic of some Conservatives of suggesting that full independence would be preferable to a tax-raising, devolved assembly. That view could cut Labour support, to the benefit of the SNP, helping Tories to hold seats.

Labour yesterday said that the nationalist slogan "Scotland Free in '93" was a sham. Mr Dewar said that the SNP would not be major players in the next election, but might cream off enough votes to allow Tory candidates to survive by default.

Labour's new campaign, designed to run until the Scottish party conference in March, is to be known as "A Scottish Parliament Now".

Tenders attacked in leaked report

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government's commitment to compulsory contracting-out of council services was under renewed scrutiny last night after Labour leaked a report that was of the practice.

The report questions the benefits and savings of competitive tendering for many council white-collar functions — a centrepiece of John Major's citizen's charter.

Labour is urging ministers to abandon its plans to contract-out the services to private firms. The report, by PA Consulting Group, was commissioned by the environment department.

The report concluded that many white-collar services were not suitable for contracting-out and would bring no savings. It also questioned the proposal for giving corporate and committee work to private firms.

The consultants said that "privatisation" of electoral registration could be extremely sensitive. Those authorities that had put legal services out to tender had found prices to be as much as four times higher than doing the work in-house.

Labour's environment spokesman gave the report to journalists yesterday to pre-empt the third reading in the Lords on Monday of

the local government bill, which gives ministers the power to contract-out council services. The government has always refused to publish the report.

Lord McIntosh of Harrogate, Labour's environment spokesman in the Lords, said yesterday: "It is no wonder the government has kept the PA Consulting Group's report under wraps for so long."

"It contradicts much of what they intend to do and shows how weak was the case for compulsory competitive tendering in the first place. It seems incredible that they should see fit to base a major piece of legislation upon such shaky foundations."

Michael Portillo, the local government minister, commented: "It is ministers who decide policy, not consultants."

The environment department denied that the government had ignored the report and said that detailed discussions were continuing on the contracting-out of further services.

The report was never intended for publication because the local authorities which co-operated with the group had been assured of confidentiality, the department said.

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Granny becomes

How Wales got pride from England

Institute of British Geographers

'Granny dumping' becomes a danger

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE government's community care policy is likely to fail because it is based on an outdated concept of the family. Sarah Harper, of Royal Holloway and Bedford College, London, told the Institute of British Geographers conference yesterday.

The policy's shortcomings, which included placing too great a burden on the family, raised the spectre of "granny dumping", she said, a phenomenon so far restricted to the United States. There, an increasing number of elderly people were simply being left at hospitals or other institutions, sometimes in wheelchairs with labels around their necks saying "please look after granny".

The American College of Emergency Physicians had estimated that up to 70,000

elderly people were being dumped every year in America. Dr Harper told the Swansea conference. There was no evidence in her survey, or in any other British work, that the same thing was happening here.

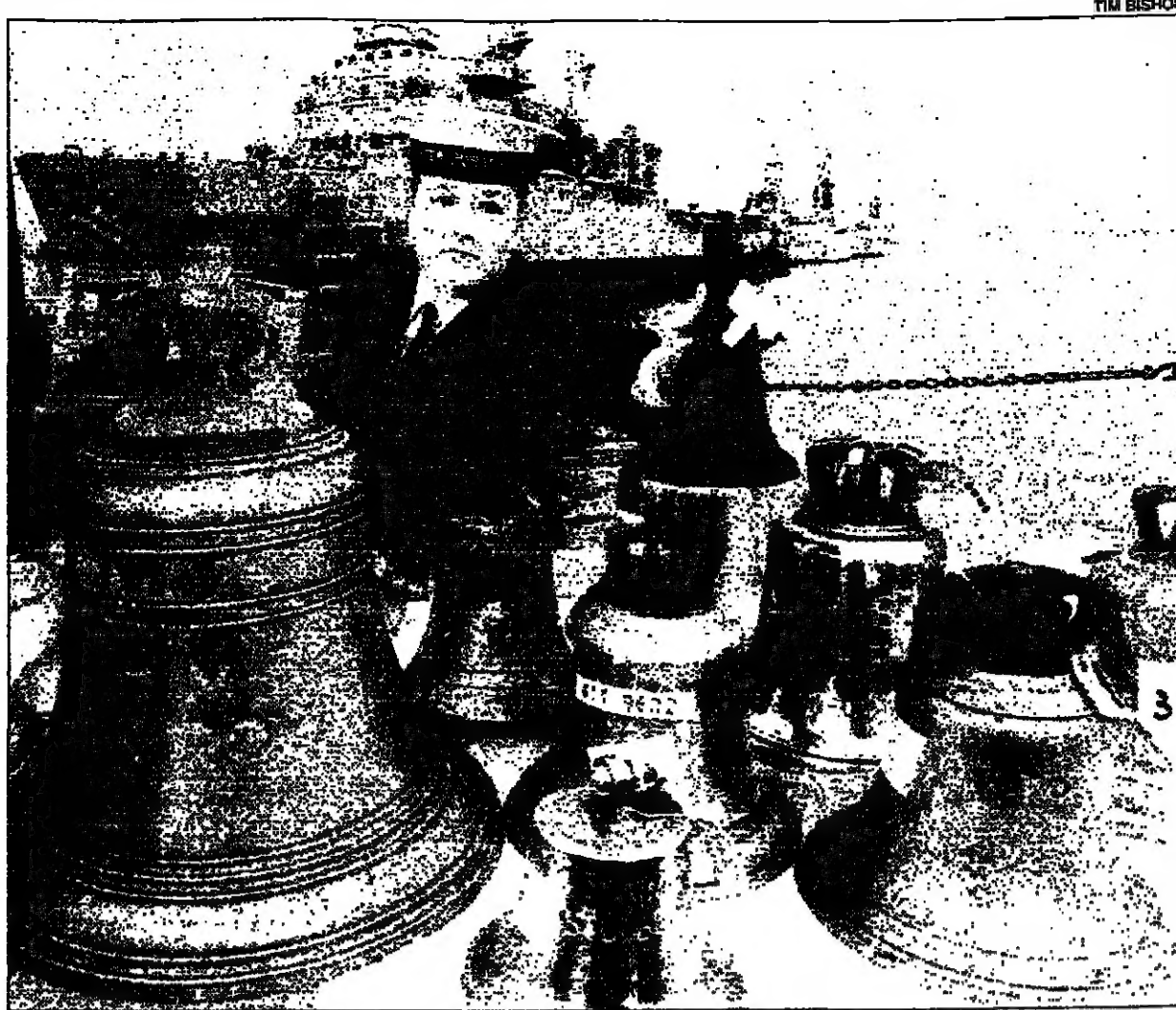
The danger did exist, however. Research into family life suggested that attempts by governments to force elderly people to be dependent on their families resulted in those families avoiding responsibility.

The government's policy, outlined in the 1989 white paper, *Caring for People: Community Care in the Next Decade and Beyond*, was based on the concept that the primary providers of care should be the family. But a small survey of 100 elderly people and their families, car-

ried out by Dr Harper in the south Midlands, had shown that only 25 per cent of the elderly had the kind of extended family necessary for providing long-term care.

A further 25 per cent had no family near by, so were looked after by the social services. The most disadvantaged group was the remainder, those who had one family member near by, who bore the entire burden of caring. Typically, Dr Harper said, this might mean that a daughter in her sixties was looking after a mother in her eighties full-time, with little outside support. Overstretched social services departments concentrated resources on the elderly with no relation near by, leaving the single carers unsupported.

Community care was a good idea in principle, Dr Harper said, but to make it work, less responsibility should be placed on the family and more resources devoted to supporting carers.



Belle ringer: Wren Writer Sharon Whittaker at Portsmouth yesterday with a selection of the 200 surplus bells due to be sold by the Royal Navy. The ships' bells include those from HMS Bronington, a former command of the Prince of Wales. Prices range from £20 to £1,200

Low blood pressure overlooked

By THOMSON PRENTICE MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

LOW blood pressure may cause depression and other psychiatric symptoms, but is overlooked as an illness in Britain, according to specialists in the *British Medical Journal* published today.

Doctors could have the blinkered assumption that because high blood pressure, a risk factor in heart disease and strokes, is bad for the patient, low blood pressure must be good. Anthony Mann, vice-dean of the Institute of Psychiatry in London, says in an accompanying editorial.

Findings from long-term health studies, involving 10,000 civil servants aged 35-55, show that those with low blood pressure are more prone to dizziness, giddiness and tiredness, feeling low and panicky, and lack of concentration.

The evidence is published in the journal by researchers at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and University College and Middlesex School of Medicine, London. Professor Mann suggests that clinical trials should be considered.

Church 'is failing women'

MORE than 80 per cent of rural members of the Church of England would be happy to receive communion from or be married by a woman priest, a survey shows. Only two of 570 people questioned said that they would leave the church if women were ordained (Nigel Hawkes writes).

The evidence indicated that the failure of the Church of England hierarchy to sanction women's ordination "is seriously out of line with the views of rural people," said Susanne Seymour, of Bath University, told the conference.

The survey, part of the Rural Church Project, and carried out by Dr Seymour and Chris Short, of the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester, showed that although women attended church twice as frequently as men and were stronger believers, they were given few jobs in the parishes. Less than 5 per cent of salaried jobs were done by women, and even when unpaid work was included, women occupied only 15 per cent of the jobs.

The survey was carried out in five dioceses — Truro, Gloucester, Southwell, Durham and Lincoln. Among the urban parishes in those dioceses, women were given slightly greater responsibility than in the rural parishes, but the differences were minimal.

When asked if they would be happy for lay people to administer the wine in the communion service, 29 per cent said yes.

Business advisers prosper

IF YOU want to get ahead, get into management consultancy, one of the fastest growing sectors of the British economy in the late Eighties, which now appears to be relatively immune to the recession (Nigel Hawkes writes).

John Bryson and David Keeble of Cambridge University and Peter Wood of University College London told the geographers' conference that the number of management consultancies doubled between 1985 and 1990, while business as a whole grew by only 3.5 per cent and manufacturing industry registered a 17.5 per cent decline.

The trio had carried out a survey of 120 companies in London, the South-East, the North-West and Yorkshire.

Since the survey was completed in 1990, a fresh examination of the companies had shown that only three had stopped trading, while half declared that their objective over the next two years was growth.

Dr Bryson said that the explosive growth of management consultancy could be attributed to increasing internationalisation and specialisation of business, which had created a need for outside advice.

The companies had proved recession-proof because they were small, with an average of 6.5 employees each, had low overheads and were able to cut back without going out of business when the market became tricky.



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Welsh shame? Snowdon from Nant Gwynant

How Wales got its pride from England

By OUR SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Welsh love affair with their mountains was the invention of Englishmen, who coaxed a reluctant nation into regarding them as the very emblem of Welshness. Prys Morgan, a Welsh historian from the University College of Swansea, told the conference.

Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries the Welsh regarded their mountains with a mixture of shame and loathing. They were wild, uncultivable and useless — "the very rubbish of Noah's Flood" according to a satirist in the first half of the 18th century. In 1741 the Welshman William Morris explored Snowdon, but his objective was to pick flowers and he found the mountain itself dreary.

When English travellers first clambered over the Welsh highlands in the 1770s, the native Welsh were puzzled and asked: "Have you not hills and waterfalls in your own country?" Yet by 1856, the second verse of the Welsh anthem, "Land of our

Fathers", began: "Old mountainous Wales, paradise of the Bard". The patriotic song "God Bless the Prince of Wales", written in 1862, begins "Among our ancient mountains, and from our lovely vales".

Dr Morgan put the transformation down to the English, who not only brought the romantic imagination to Wales but were also able to show that the unregarded mountains were full of coal, iron, lead and other useful minerals.

"Eventually ordinary Welshmen adopted the attitudes of English gentlemen," Dr Morgan said. Mountainous Wales became celebrated by reactionary clerics and by bards as "a Ruritanian principality, loyal, pious, nostalgic, with a strongly developed sense of its own history and landscape".

By the 1850s and 60s the aesthetic revolution was complete. "The Welsh were no longer blind to their mountainscape, but had taken it in and taken it over."

ملكو من لامل

Magazines 'lure girls to smoking'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

TOBACCO companies are slowing the fall in smoking among women in Europe by targeting advertising at them through the pages of women's magazines. The tactic has been so successful that in some countries, including the United Kingdom, more teenage girls now smoke than boys, reversing the trend of decades.

A survey in the British Medical Journal shows that European women's magazines carry far more material promoting smoking than explaining its harmful effects. "Young girls see slender at-

tractive models in the magazines and want to emulate them," Paul White, smoking education officer at the Health Education Authority, said. "They associate cigarettes with being attractive, desirable and sophisticated."

More than two thirds of the 71 magazines from 13 countries studied, with a collective readership of 50 million women, said they accepted cigarette advertisements. Only five voluntarily refused them. In addition, 40 per cent of the magazines carried photographs of fashion models or personalities smoking which projected "highly positive and contemporary images of the female smoker".

Among those aged 15 to 24, 34 per cent of European women now smoke, compared with 39 per cent of men. But in Spain, Portugal, Denmark, Finland and Sweden smoking among women is increasing. In Denmark and The Netherlands, as well as Britain, young female smokers now outnumber men — by 22 per cent to 17 per cent in England and 26 to 24 per cent in Scotland.

Dr Fleur Fisher, head of the BMA's professional division, said: "In general the habit of smoking is going down, but that is not the case among young women." Smoking is emerging as more of a health problem — in Scotland cancer of the lung has already taken over from breast cancer as a significant killer of women.

Amanda Amos and Yvonne Bostock, of the department of public health sciences at the University of Edinburgh, the authors of the study, call for a European-wide ban on tobacco promotion.

The European Parliament is due to debate a total ban on tobacco advertising next week. "Four countries — Britain, Germany, Denmark and The Netherlands — are blocking this legislation," Dr Amos said.

Woman are more at risk

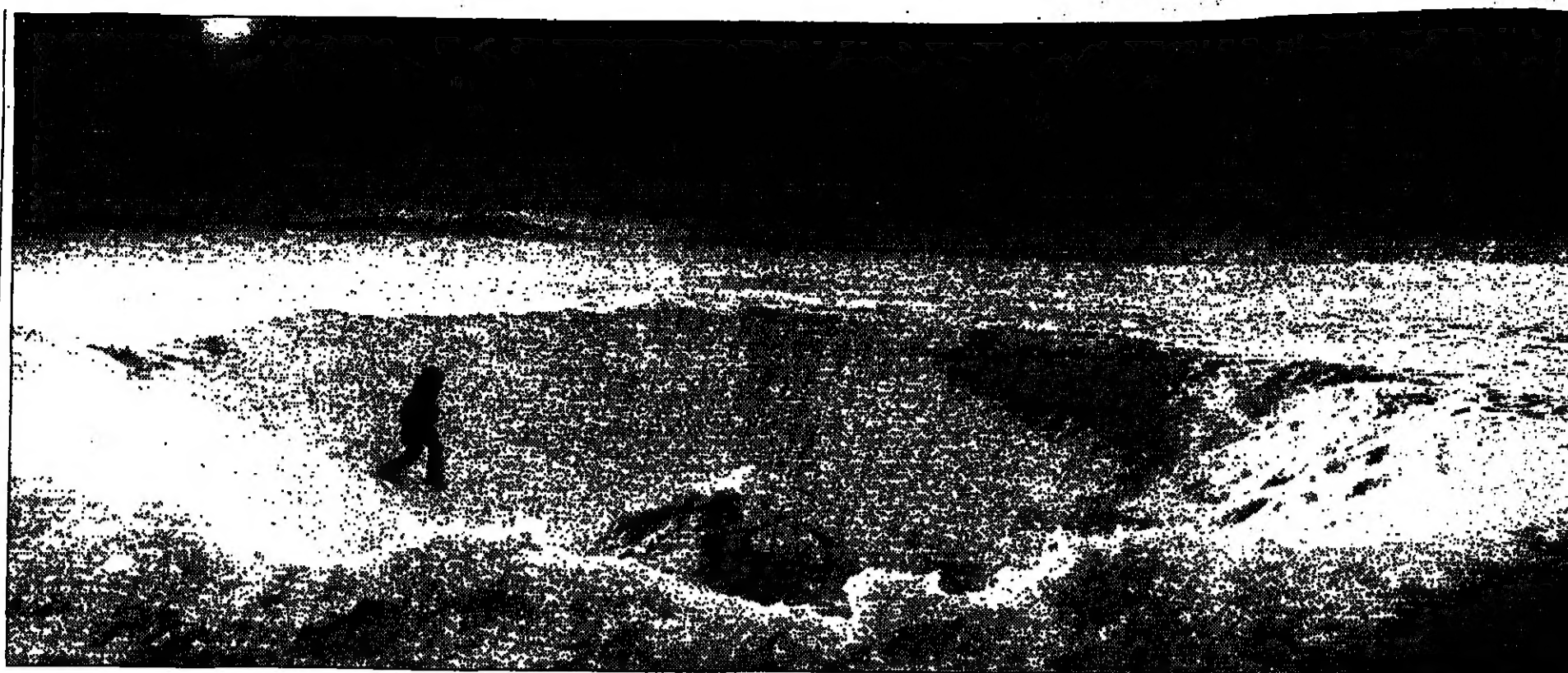
BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE Queen does not smoke, and has just stripped Alfred Dunhill of its royal warrant as her suppliers of smokers' accessories. Although cigarette lighters, boxes and holders were deemed inappropriate as royal gifts years ago, the entire royal family has not yet kicked the habit.

There are still cigarette manufacturers holding royal warrants: Princess Margaret, the Queen's sister, has not yet given up; and the Duchess of York is said to smoke up to five a day.

Statistics show that 30 per cent of all British women still smoke, compared with 33 per cent of men. Among those under 25, more women smoke than men, and though lung cancer has traditionally been regarded as a predominantly male disease, women are catching up fast.

That is attributed to the large number of women who started smoking during and immediately after the second world war.



Polar moonscape: A Greenpeace scientist walking in a crater made when American scientists destroyed hazardous waste near McMurdo station in Antarctica

Allergy trees cut down

BRISTOL: Mike Boyce yesterday won a battle to axe four pine trees in his garden — because his son is allergic to them. Christopher, aged five, was banned from playing in the garden for two years because of his rare condition. Council chiefs repeatedly refused Mr Boyce's pleas to fell the trees because they were protected by a preservation order. They have now relented — provided the 20ft trees are replaced with "suitable alternatives".

Paying guests
Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia may make prisoners pay for their jail stay to help the government maintain its overcrowded prisons, a minister said. Syed Hamid Albar, the justice minister, said that the government might also put prisoners to work in sectors where there was a labour shortage like building. (Reuters)

Record priest

King's Lynn: The Church of England's longest-serving parish priest, the Rev Noel Bales is to retire from his job in west Norfolk. Mr Bales, aged 84, has been parish priest at Marshland St James for 50 years.

New life for a golden oldie

BY KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

A CAR with the streamlining of a barn door and based on a 44-year-old design is Britain's latest offering to America at the Detroit motor show.

The Land Rover, which has long been one of Britain's biggest export earners around the world, came to the attention of American forces during the Gulf war. They were so impressed with Land Rover Defender models that they used them as transport along the bomb cratered roads instead of their own more familiar four-wheel-drive vehicles.

Executives at Land Rover in Solihull, Warwickshire, soon realised that their aged vehicle could find enthusiasts in the world's biggest market for off-road vehicles. Buyers in America, however, will be expected to pay a premium price for what could become a cult vehicle. Land Rover will export only 500 of the vehicles a year, initially at a price of about £25,000, between £8,000 and £10,000 more than they cost in Britain.

Bill Baker, Land Rover's north America spokesman, said: "The appeal of this car is to the modern cavalier set."



Barnstorming: a Land Rover Defender at Detroit

The company is exploiting a marketing philosophy which has helped to insulate Land Rover from the worst of the recession in America. While other luxury car makers, including Rolls-Royce and Jaguar, have seen sales halved this year, the Range Rover, introduced in America last year, has remained immune with 18,000 sold since 1988. Owners include the film actors Jack Nicholson and Bruce Willis and the pop singer Michael Jackson.

Land Rover believes that the spartan Defender can attract similar buyers at a time when style guides are telling typical Americans that "retro fashion" for all things quaint and traditional is in and modern techno-gadgets are out. The Land Rover certainly fits this fashion bill.

Journalists at Detroit, one of the world's most high profile motor shows, left rival stands packed with sleek cars of the future to give an enthusiastic reception to a direct descendant of the vehicle first designed after the second world war.

And the 1992 version shares more similarities than differences with its venerable predecessor, although 44 years ago doors were an optional extra. In Detroit they are standard.

Victory for Mandela

Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress, is the most popular political leader in South Africa, followed by President de Klerk, a country-wide poll released yesterday has shown. The survey, conducted among 2,600 respondents by Research Surveys last September, shows that 59 per cent believe that Mr Mandela is doing a good job. Mr de Klerk's approval rating was 56 per cent.

Pop star Michael Jackson has accepted a government invitation to perform in Pakistan. Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, minister of culture and sport, said the concert had been set for April 14 in Lahore. But he said threats by religious leaders to close airports and organise street protests could force Mian Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister, to rescind the offer.

Jean-Marie Le Pen, the French extreme right-wing politician, lost a libel suit yesterday against Guy Bedos, a comedian, who had said that the National Front leader would belly-dance in Iraq for President Saddam Hussein. Bedos said on radio last

year that Saddam had given money to M Le Pen's party, which was opposed to French involvement in the Gulf war. "That's why Le Pen is going to belly-dance over there," he said, referring to a trip M Le Pen took to Baghdad just before fighting broke out last January. The Paris court ruled that while some of the remarks were damaging, they could be permitted within the context of Bedos's profession.

Actor Christopher Reeve plans to marry his long-time girlfriend this summer. Reeve, aged 39, best known for playing the title role in the Superman films, will marry Dana Morosini, aged 30 and a singer and an actress, on June 30. It will be five years to the day that they met each other, Wendy Morris, a publicist, said. He has two children by former model Gae Exton.

The Princess Royal, a keen yachtswoman, was paid the ultimate compliment by Clay Blyth — he asked her to join his crew in this year's Fastnet race. But the hardworking Princess Royal — who carried out 145 engagements last year — told the yachtsman she was too busy to take part.

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Bush for take

Shoppers p Quayle on st

Detroit in slo lane to humili

Time running out for stricken president as he seeks cure for America's ills in election year

Bush fortunes take a dive

WHEN scribbled down on White House headed note paper, the president's 1992 travel plans looked fine. Ten days in the Far East, most of them in holiday mood themselves: a smash-and-grab raid in Tokyo to steal trade concessions from a country that would be too polite to complain; and a triumphant two-week swing around the voters back home, vaunting how much the "foreign policy president" had done to help the economy.

When displayed in hard newsprint yesterday, the plans did not look so good. After a tour which brought more embarrassment than rewards, Mr Bush begins his ten-month bid for re-election next week with little yet to offer the voters of the Midwest, where he goes first, of all-important New Hampshire where he will spend Wednesday, the South where he spends Friday, or of giant California which will receive

Peter Stothard writes that more scenes like that in Tokyo could ring down the curtain on Bush's career

the president at the start of the following week.

His Democrat opponents have already begun the task of linking the president's personal disaster in Japan with the problems of the country as a whole. "It was a metaphor for the entire trip," commented an aide to the Nebraska senator, Bob Kerrey. "The United States is stumbling, staggering, on its knees, looking for something to cure its ills." Many on the Republican right, including *The Wall Street Journal*, which carried that quotation yesterday, agree.

Mr Bush, they argue, cannot be criticised for catching flu; or even for vomiting on an allied prime minister's

trouser leg. What was wrong, they say, was the notion that a car-selling trip by the president of the United States could do anything to end the recession. "Not only was it demeaning, it was also guaranteed to raise false hopes," said one Republican lobbyist.

Mr Bush has irritated free marketers with his protectionist rhetoric of the past ten days. But he is likely to find little compensating gratitude from the voters of north-eastern New Hampshire, whose angry mood will stir few memories of the state which gave Mr Bush his vital first taste of victory in 1988.

From the perspective of a presidential doctor, New Hampshire is an ideal place for his patient to campaign. It is small, only a few hundred miles from Washington and in the same time zone. From a campaign manager's viewpoint, it is a place of horror, a state which on the one hand is obsessed by riu-



Taking a hand: Barbara Bush, continuing her programme despite her husband's illness, experiments with candy at a Tokyo folk museum where she was given a candy image of the Republican elephant

al anti-tax pledges and, on the other, is stricken by economic slump.

Mr Bush's flu will doubtless have passed by the time he arrives. But he will need all the vigour he can muster to survive what is likely to be a bitter sniping campaign from his protectionist

"America First" primary challenger, Patrick Buchanan, who blames the state's ills on too much taxation, too much kowtowing to Japan,

and too little old-fashioned moral principle. That is what New Hampshire wants to hear, and Mr Buchanan is in New Hampshire almost per-

manently now, making sure that they hear it.

Mr Bush must decide how much time he ought to spend countering this assault. Fighting a New Hampshire primary is a battle to show strength rather than simply win votes. Mr Buchanan must be kept to fewer votes than the polls suggest that he will get. Mr Bush must not let it be seen that either his health or his lack of concern for New Hampshire is holding him back from the campaign trail. Equally he must not be seen to be panicked into making too many trips.

The president has a big advantage over all his Democrat rivals. He knows that, unless something extraordinary happens, he will be adopted as the Republican candidate at the Houston convention in mid-August. Mr Buchanan and his other primary challenger, former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, can wound but they cannot strike.

Mr Bush enjoys campaigning. Whether it suits his body so well remains to be seen. As friends warned yesterday, he ought to take life a little easier. He has many more public dinners ahead.

Shoppers put Quayle on spot

BY PETER STOTHARD

WHILE President Bush looked forward to a good night's sleep on Air Force One yesterday, Vice-President Dan Quayle was working from Victory Two, the campaign bus that he is using to get the White House message to the sceptical voters of New Hampshire.

Despite trying to choose friendly venues, Mr Quayle received a direct lesson in the depths of dissatisfaction in the state, which holds the nation's first primary election on February 18. He visited a beauty parlour whose owner had written him an optimistic letter about her prospects. But for every upbeat Cheryl Hines, there were many more downbeat Judy Websters - voters who told Mr Quayle how the once prosperous state had lost jobs and hope for the future.

Mr Quayle told groups of shoppers that he had come to listen to their message. But they quickly spelt out the message that he did not want to hear: that of the isolationism and protectionism preached by the primary challenger, Patrick Buchanan. Mr Buchanan welcomed Mr Quayle's arrival, but said that the people of the state wanted to hear from the "big fellow" next week (when Mr Bush is due in New Hampshire).

"Where is George? We would like to talk to him," shouted voices from the crowd as Mr Quayle shook hands and reassured his listeners about the president's health. The news from Tokyo, although drawing greater than expected attention to the vice-president's efforts, has not been generally beneficial. Though Mr Quayle is a skilled and attractive street

campaigner, the impact of his presence has been overshadowed by concern about his being "a fainting fit away from the White House".

The *Manchester Union Leader*, the newspaper that propelled Mr Buchanan into the campaign and is strongly supporting him, cited a poll this week indicating that 71 per cent of voters thought the vice-president unqualified to take over power.

More important, a recent CNN poll indicated that Mr Quayle could cost the Bush campaign four percentage points with uncommitted voters, a key constituency if the race in November were close.

Yesterday, *The Washington Post* continued its seven-part series on the vice-president's role in politics and government. In what has amounted to a lengthy piece of revisionism for the *Post*, a fierce critic of Mr Quayle in 1988, the series has portrayed a generally more canny politician than the comic figure portrayed in the past three years.

The latest revelations concerned Mr Quayle's leadership of the president's council on competitiveness, a job that until recently was seen as just the sort of meaningless position that presidents give vice-presidents to keep them seeming busy. After complaints from senior Democratic congressmen, however, it has transpired that Mr Quayle has been quietly using the council to weaken government regulations that the vice-president's officials see as excessively burdensome on industry. The interventions in environmental and labour rulings "leave no fingerprints" to betray the author, the *Post* says.

Detroit in slow lane to humility

BY DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Bush, faced with trying to sell cars to Japanese that even Americans do not want to buy, struck on a novel marketing ploy for his accompanying Detroit executives: learn Japanese.

In Japan they have not forgotten the visit to Paris in the 1960s by a Japanese prime minister whom President De

something of the culture you are dealing with. Nowhere is that more important than in learning Japanese. The Westerner must take on a new persona: modesty is the more important the more one rises in society.

Lee Iacocca, of Chrysler, and the other car makers, have not appeared less promising candidates for fluency. "We do not have to apologise to anybody," Mr Iacocca said. "We are the leaders of the world. To say we are coming to Japan to get a souvenir, or we are going to sit around and accept whatever favours they can bestow on us, that is not the game."

The equally self-effacing Robert Stempel, of General Motors, added: "We have world-class cars. We joined the president for just that reason: that America can be proud of the goods it produces, can be proud of the technology it has."

A teacher of Japanese listening to those two gentlemen might choose a new career rather than try to make linguists out of them: subtlety and reserve are all, even when selling cars. Clearly they had forgotten the advertisements for Japan's world-beating luxury car, the Lexus: they never mentioned cars at all.



Gaulle called a mere transistor salesman. When an American president bearing car brochures travels to a country that once made Austins under licence, times have clearly changed.

Making an effort to learn the language is a lesson Tokyo has been trying to teach the world for some time, but it requires some of the principles that apply to car salesmen: you have to understand

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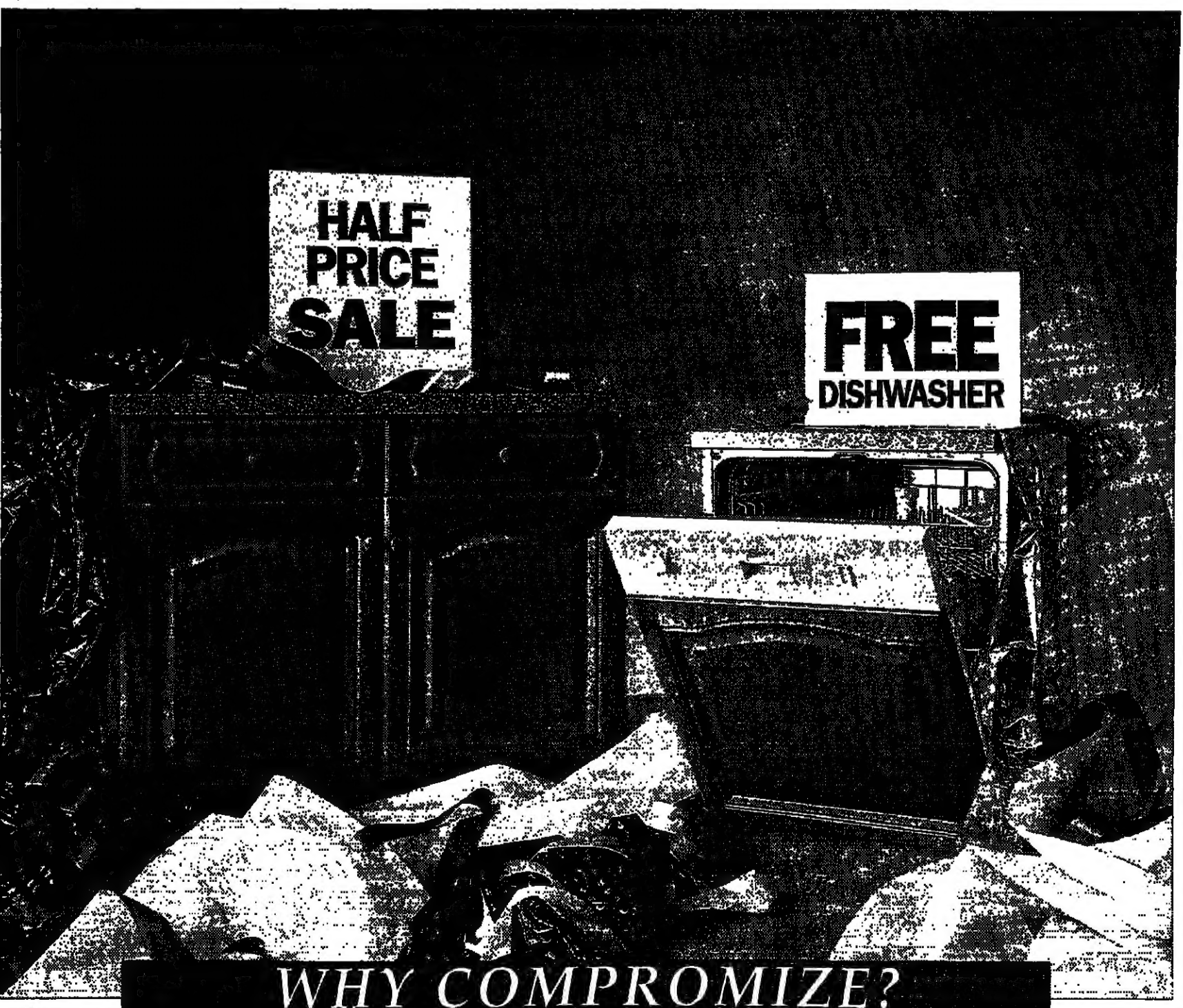
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Yeltsin bolsters his claim to fleet

FROM AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin asserted yesterday that Russia would never give up the prized Black Sea fleet of the former Soviet navy, and said that the fleet's officers could consider themselves under his protection.

"No one will take the Black Sea fleet from Russia, not even Kravchuk," said Mr Yeltsin, referring to Leonid Kravchuk, the Ukrainian president. "The Black Sea fleet has been, is still and will remain Russian," he said in

remarks made on a visit to an aircraft factory in the northern city of Ulyanovsk and reported by Tass.

Mr Yeltsin's statements marked the latest exchange in an escalating political and military confrontation between the governments of Russia and Ukraine, both of which have laid claim to the Black Sea fleet. The debate, however, had previously hinged on the question of whether the fleet was "strategic" and Mr Yeltsin's re-

marks shifted the focus away from the technical issue and on to the more fundamental jockeying for national interests.

Earlier yesterday General Konstantin Morozov, the Ukrainian defence minister, appeared to suggest that Ukraine was open to compromise in the dispute and was prepared to resolve it "by way of law and negotiation". However, General Morozov, in remarks reported by the Russian Information Agency (RIA), reiterated Kiev's claim that Ukraine is a "maritime power" and therefore entitled to build a strong navy of its own.

Mr Yeltsin appealed to sailors in the Black Sea fleet to ignore the Ukrainian government's call for them to swear an oath of allegiance to the republic and noted that there were about 11,000,000 Russians living in Ukraine. "Therefore we should not quarrel with Ukraine," the president said.

Mr Kravchuk, in remarks reported on Wednesday by Tass, appeared to recognise the Russian argument that the fleet was a component of strategic forces of the former Soviet Union. According to Tass, he backed off his demand for immediate possession over the fleet and said he would wait until July — when strategic nuclear weapons should be removed from Ukraine — to take over the fleet.

But two Ukrainian officials, speaking at a news conference here yesterday, cast doubt on the Tass report and asserted that the Black Sea fleet was not part of the former Soviet Union's strategic armed forces. Colonel Vitaly Lazorkin, a senior official with the Ukrainian defence ministry, said that Ukraine intended to proceed with taking control over the Black Sea fleet in line with the republic's constitution.

Asked about the apparent contradiction between his remarks and those from Mr Kravchuk, Vladimir Kryzhanovskiy, Ukraine's representative in Russia, said: "Ask Tass."

Geneva: An assurance that all stocks of the former Soviet chemical weapons are in safe keeping was given yesterday by Sergei Batsanov, now representing the Russian Federation in arms control negotiations (Alan McGregor writes).

"For some time now, all chemical weapons, also production plants, have been located inside the Russian Federation," he said. "So there is nothing in other independent states."



Out in the cold: Gamsakhurdia at his house yesterday in Yerevan, Armenia, where he fled to on Monday

Peasants lament lost idol

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN TELAVI

THE hard core of supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia lamented the ousting of their beloved president yesterday as they began to bury their dead in the Georgian capital.

With quiet dignity, about 2,000 people marched in a long file behind the coffin of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, aged 48, one of at least four people killed when forces of the new regime opened fire on demonstrators loyal to the nationalist leader. Mr Gamsakhurdia fled his embattled parliament on Monday.

In contrast to the usually aggressive tone of any public gathering of the deposed president's supporters, the mourners kept their voices down as they complained bitterly that their president had been removed by renegade communists. The crowd consisted of the lower middle class — the peasants struggling to improve their lot in the city — all of whom were Mr Gamsakhurdia's natural constituency.

In a sense they were burying not just one man, but all their hopes of the paradise that they thought Mr Gamsakhurdia represented. "Under Gamsakhurdia we felt like real human beings for the first time; we had hope for the future," said a young woman, who, like most of the mourners, refused to be named for fear of reprisals.

In Armenia, Paruyr Airikyan, the opposition leader, alleged that the authorities there had ordered Mr Gamsakhurdia to leave his mountain sanctuary in Yerevan for the rebel region of Chechno-Ingushetia in the northern Caucasus. The report could not be independently confirmed.

Smear tactics shake Sofia

By ROGER BOYES, EAST EUROPE CORRESPONDENT

THE campaign manager of President Zhelev of Bulgaria, who is front-runner in the presidential election this weekend, was accused yesterday of collaborating with the country's secret police.

The charges, printed in the Socialist (formerly Communist) daily newspaper, Duma, were long a police informer. Dr Ivanov, who is regarded as one of the shrewdest political advisers in the presidential team, studied for his doctorate in Germany and, according to the Socialists, was co-operating with the police at the time. Mr Zhelev's team has dismissed the claim as electioneering.

Such smear tactics are common in Bulgarian politics because so many activists did co-operate with the secret police, although often only to a small extent. The move by the Socialists suggests a mea-

sure of desperation. They are not fielding their own candidate, despite being the second biggest party in parliament, but have thrown their support behind a nationalist lawyer, Velko Velkanov, who has promised to protect Bulgarian interests against those of the country's Turkish minority.

The communists, who under their party chief, Todor Zhivkov, vigorously discriminated against the million ethnic Turks, are thus trying to stir up nationalist passions to stay in the political game. They are likely to draw support from Bulgarians in mixed Bulgarian-Turkish communities.

US fears nuclear spread

London: The West will not be able to prevent the transfer of nuclear technology and weapons personnel from the former Soviet Union to Third World countries, Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary, said yesterday during a visit to London (Michael Evans writes). He declared: "We'll do everything we can to prevent it... but I'm not certain that we can successfully stop this kind of transfer."

Mr Cheney said at the Ministry of Defence, where he held talks with Tom King, his British counterpart, that after the break-up of the Soviet Union the danger of the proliferation of nuclear technology had increased significantly.

Defence ministers now had to plan for a future in which several other countries would possess nuclear weapons, Mr Cheney said. "This is why we must get on with developing a defence against ballistic missiles," he said, referring to the American strategic defence initiative programme.

Fabius picked

Paris: Laurent Fabius, the National Assembly president and former prime minister of France, has been elected to the difficult job of first secretary of the ruling Socialist party in succession to Pierre Mauroy.

Olympic worry

Madrid: The shooting by Eta gunmen of a Spanish air force officer in Barcelona has raised fears that Basque terrorists will try to disrupt the Olympic games. The defence ministry said 9,000 troops would help protect the games.

Warsaw threat

Warsaw: Solidarity 80, a splinter group of the Solidarity union movement, said it would join nationwide protests this month which threaten the stability of the new government of Jan Olszewski, the prime minister.

Road worthy

Bonn: Günther Krause, the German transport minister, has proposed renaming a street or square in every city in east Germany after Mikhail Gorbachev to honour his role in helping to bring about German unification. (AFP)

Fuel shortage hits republics

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

TEN days into the new year, many areas of the former Soviet Union are experiencing acute shortages of energy. Thousands of workers are idle, transport in many republics has been run down, and up to half of all airports report cancelled flights because of a shortage of fuel.

In recent years, the availability of fuel has tended to improve in early January as the new year's allocations come on stream, but this year there has been little change. Officials can only be relieved that in large population centres the winter so far has been relatively mild.

The worst affected areas appear to be in the extreme west and east. In Riga, the capital of Latvia, it is reported that buses are operating only a skeleton service and that the state airline has suspended all flights to and from Moscow.

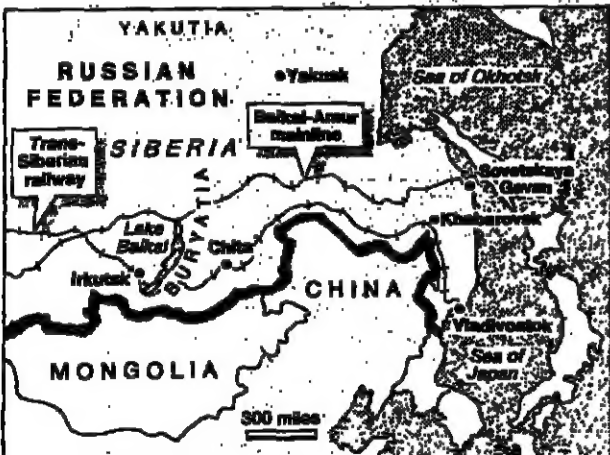
Estonia is said to have only ten days' supply of fuel for the vast heating plants that provide most municipal heating and hot water, and the average temperature has been reduced. The shortages are mostly blamed on falling oil output.

In the far east, the problems seem to be worse. Tass

reported yesterday that tens of thousands of workers were idle in the Siberian city of Chita because there was no electricity for local factories. It said cryptically that agriculture had suffered "huge losses", which may refer to henhouses and cowsheds being without fuel.

The trans-Baikal region used to receive additional energy supplies from the neighbouring regions of Buryatia, Yakutia and Amur, the news agency said, but "since the beginning of this year, these regions have refused to help Chita and the situation has become catastrophic". The change reflects a breakdown in supply contracts with the demise of the centrally planned economy and sharp falls in the production of oil and coal.

Further east, in Khabarovsk, a series of accidents at outdated heating plants since the start of winter has left whole areas of the city without power and the authorities have been unable to replace fractured pipes. Even in Moscow, many factories closed for two weeks over the holiday week, partly because of a shortage of raw materials and partly to save energy.



Moscow launches reform era

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

MOSCOW city government resigned yesterday in a gesture that seemed designed to mark the end of the old order and the beginning of radical reform in the city, including far-reaching privatisation.

Yuri Luzhkov, the head of the city's government, who is also deputy mayor, was reappointed immediately with a mandate to make cuts in the bureaucracy of at least a quarter and to give priority to economic reform and social security for the poor.

Since its election 18 months ago, the city's admini-

stration has complained repeatedly of obstruction to its reform programme from old-style apparatchiks and others with an interest in preventing reform. Successive initiatives, including measures to privatise housing and sell off shops and offices have run into the sand, and Moscow remains one of the worst supplied cities in Russia.

Last month the city's mayor, Gavril Popov, threatened several times to resign unless he received more support for his reform programme from Boris Yeltsin and the Russian government. Yesterday Mr Popov and Mr Luzhkov both

paid tribute to new initiatives backing reform in the city and agreed that they should make a new start with a new government.

With the immediate risk of violent protests against price rises apparently avoided, the city's reformists seem to have decided that they are now strong enough to remove conservatives from the administration and start afresh. Mr Luzhkov's public resignation and equally public reappointment also send the signal to Muscovites that they, too, should judge the performance of their government from the beginning of 1992.

Squabbling Serbs hurl defiance

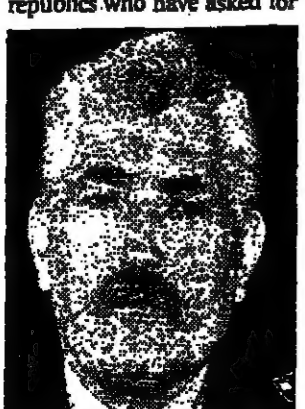
FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE AND TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

SERBS in ethnically mixed Bosnia-Herzegovina declared the foundation of their own republic yesterday. Meanwhile, in Knin, capital of the Serbian enclaves in Croatia, Serbian leaders vowed to fight if a United Nations peacekeeping force was imposed, and in Belgrade Vuk Draskovic, the leader of Serbia's largest opposition party, was charged with incitement to violence.

Also yesterday, General Blagoje Adzic, the chief of staff of the Yugoslav armed forces and a supporter of the hardline Serbian faction, was appointed as Yugoslav defence minister. General Veljko Kadijevic resigned from the post two days after a federal air force jet shot down a European Community helicopter on Tuesday, killing five EC ceasefire monitors who were on board.

In Sarajevo, capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbian leaders declared that, with effect from Monday, they would have their own repub-

lic. Serbs make up some 30 per cent of Bosnia's population and they bitterly oppose the decision by the leadership of the republic's Muslims and Croats to ask the EC to recognise Bosnia as an independent state. The decision was a clear warning to EC foreign ministers not to recognise Bosnia-Herzegovina. The EC has pledged to recognise the four Yugoslav republics who have asked for



Adzic takes over post of defence chief

recognition by January 15 if they meet certain criteria on human and minority rights.

Dr Radovan Karadzic, the Serbian leader in Bosnia, explained that no organs of government or police would be set up until "the Croats or Muslims try to separate from Yugoslavia or until they are recognised". Serbs say that, if and when it comes to drawing boundaries around their republic, they will claim 65 per cent of the territory of old Bosnia-Herzegovina, something Muslims and Croats have promised to oppose by force.

In Belgrade, Vuk Draskovic, the leader of the Serbian Renewal Movement, said that if Bosnian Serbs went ahead with their own republic it would mire Yugoslavia "in blood up to our knees", and predicted that the decision would encourage Albanians and Muslims in Serbia proper to press for their own republics.

An optimistic Lord Carrington, presiding over

the first EC peace conference in two months, yesterday said he believed the Yugoslav civil war was nearing a solution. He said there were definite signs that the present ceasefire, which began on January 3, will hold. He said Slobodan Milosevic, Serbia's belligerent leader, had at last accepted the break-up of Yugoslavia as inevitable.

Speaking briefly to reporters inside the Palais d'Egmont, the conference's new Brussels home, Mr Milosevic showed that he would fight on for increased Serbian rights, however. "Nobody can abolish Yugoslavia from the outside," he said.

Udine, Italy: The bodies of the four Italian European Community observers killed when their helicopter was shot down in Yugoslavia were flown home yesterday to be buried with full military honours at Udine cathedral, an air force spokesman said. Today, the French navy officer also killed will be buried in Carcassonne. (Reuters)

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EXHIBITIONS: LONDON

In the midst of death, here is abundant life

When the Gulf war prompted the Victoria & Albert Museum to cancel an exhibition on *The Art of Death*, British society dramatically confirmed its modern horror of the grave. Most of us prefer to avoid confronting our own mortality. The inevitability of extinction is a conversational taboo, and we seal ourselves off from all contaminating contact with the bodies of the dead. Euphemisms such as "the departed" abound, testifying to a belief that anyone who clearly acknowledges human dissolution is guilty of inexcusable morbidity.

Now that the V&A has at last staged the banned show, our 20th-century embarrassment is revealed in all its ridiculous and damaging repression. For the survey's organiser, Nigel Llewellyn, has brought together a salutary selection of objects disclosing how frankly we once dealt with the reality of death.

Nothing could be more direct than one of the earliest and tiniest exhibits: the Tor Abbey Jewel, a gold and enamel pendant in the form of a coffin. Made around 1546, its decorated lid bears the reassuring assertion that "Through the Resurrection of Christ We Be All Sanctified." Open the jewel up, however, and a skeleton modelled with the maximum amount of uncompromising veracity is exposed to view.

We may recoil from the thought of wearing such a stark *memento mori* on a neck-chain. But our ancestors took a far more robust attitude, surrounding themselves with images and inscriptions which provided everyday reminders of their inescapable end. In the 1630s Sir Thomas Aston thought nothing of commissioning an immense, brooding painting of his wife's blanched corpse, still lying on the bed where she had died in childbirth. Below, the woman reappears as she was when alive; but the centre of the panel is devoted to the dead baby's draped cradle, surrounded by a skull.

No wonder Aston himself reels away giddily to the left. He must have been devastated by his loss, and the small son standing nearby would also die a year later. But grief did not prevent the stricken father from asking John Souch, the artist, to depict the entire scene in all its funeral grimness.

Aston, the Sheriff of provincial Chester, demanded a harsher form of remembrance than his more sophisticated metropolitan contemporaries. Shocked by the unexpected death of his wife, Sir Kenelm Digby immediately asked Van Dyck to sketch Lady Venetia in her death-bed. Since the body had already lain there for two days, the artist brought colour into her cheeks by "rubbing her face".

In the final painting she looks far lovelier than the drained Lady Aston, and might well be mistaken for a woman asleep. A rose lying on her sheet adds to the air of fragrance, but the fact remains that Digby had commissioned a portrait of a corpse.

Although the very notion would

Death is the great taboo subject in Britain today, but as Richard Cork discovers at two London shows, our own forebears and our contemporaries in Mexico display a healthier openness about humanity's inevitable fate and all the rituals attendant upon it



Figure for The Day of the Dead: made in paper-mâché and painted by the Linares family of Mexico City

nowadays be dismissed out of hand, the distraught widower gained enormous consolation from a painting he kept with him constantly. At night, he placed it beside his bed, describing how "by the faint light of candle, me thinks I see her dead indeed; for that maketh painted colors look more pale and ghastly than they doe by daylight".

The satisfaction Digby gained from this eerie presence becomes easier to understand when set in the context of recumbent tomb effigies. No gallery can hope to display more than a token array of such carvings, but Llewellyn did manage to borrow the splendid alabaster figures of Raphe and Elizabeth Wyseman from a church in Rivenhall, Essex. Newly cleaned,

and freed from the elaborate architecture which normally confines them, the reclining couple look bleached and calm. Their praying hands rise up like released souls about to ascend, and yet this emphasis on spirituality is accompanied by a zealous attention to facial detail and the particularities of costume and armour.

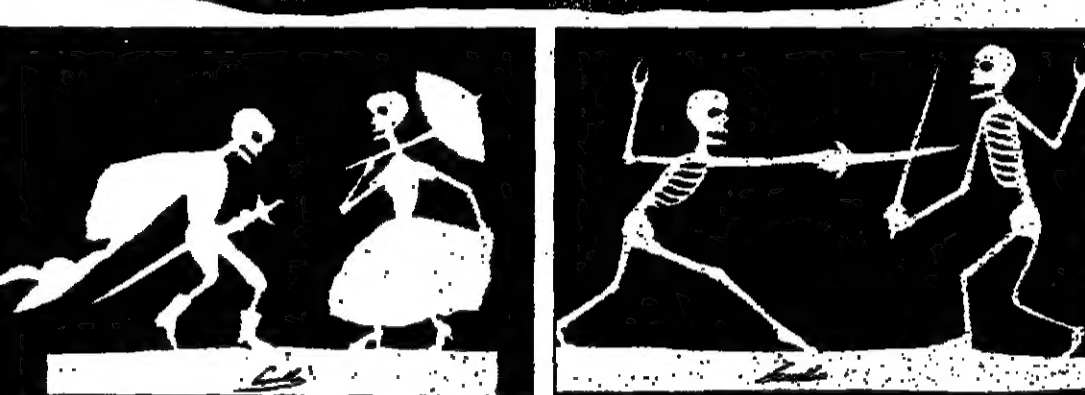
Both figures were originally coloured, thereby reinforcing the attempt at verisimilitude. A down-to-earth grasp of likeness was just as important as the insistence on an untroubled passage to heaven, and no portrait looks more touchingly faithful than John Dwight's stone-ware image of his little daughter Lydia on her deathbed. Made around 1674, this chaste act of fatherly devotion stresses Lydia's innocence by placing a posy of flowers in her white hands.

But the face is far from idealised, defining the puffiness of her cold flesh and clenched, downturned mouth with great authenticity. This is a real child, dead before her time, and parental pain can be felt beneath the sculpture's apparent serenity. For that reason, it is far more persuasive than the companion piece, showing Lydia swathed in antique draperies and ready for resurrection. Here wish-fulfilment takes over from distressing actuality, and all the tension evaporates in a swirl of predictable religious uplift.

However much comfort Dwight may have derived from his second image, he could not give it the conviction of the death-bed portrait. But the "before and after" idea gained favour in the next century, inspiring Hogarth to plan a typically quirky monument in honour of the celebrated pugilist George Taylor. In one drawing, the skeletal form of Death pins Taylor to the ground in a humiliating "cross-buttock" position. In the other, though, the pugilist triumphs over his assailant by breaking Death's ribs.

True to form, Hogarth provides the show with a welcome injection of wit and venom. He lampoons the hypocrisy of undertakers by cramming a gaggle of their grimacing, bearded heads inside a coat-of-arms flanked by piratical crossed bones. And in the last of his exhorting print-series *The Four Stages of Cruelty*, he ensures that the corpse of sadistic Tom Nero receives its gruesome comeuppance. Presided over by the callous indifference of physicians observing the proceedings, Nero's body is subjected to the most humiliating dissection imaginable.

While a young assistant makes incisions in his feet, and another butcher-like figure gouges his eyeball, the grotesquely haggard senior surgeon carves into his bowels, pulling out an extended length of intestine which trails down ignominiously into a bucket. The carelessness of the man assigned to the tearing-up of Nero's waste means that a dog is able to gnaw at his discarded remains, pushing the degraded corpse beyond hope of divine redemption.



Top: Lydia Dwight on her Deathbed, stone-ware circa 1674, at the Victoria & Albert Museum. Above: Paper silhouette skeletons, cut by Victor Manuel Cuellar, at the Museum of Mankind

Apart from the astonishingly well-preserved splendour of a 15th-century embroidered pall, and a painted figure of Victory from Nelson's spectacular Funeral Car, nothing in this survey sounds a high-spirited note. Mourning remains the hallmark, nowhere more agonisingly than in Rowlandson's uncharacteristically tragic pen study of women and children waiting over an open coffin.

In Mexico, by contrast, the annual Day of the Dead festival gives everyone a chance to celebrate the return of relatives they have lost. The Museum of Mankind's sumptuous survey, *The Skeleton at the Feast*, could hardly be further removed from the sombre artefacts gathered at the V&A. The spirit throughout is unashamedly carnivalesque. An earthenware dish splashed with black ink, like a Franz Kline painting, is almost the only restrained object on view. Elsewhere, skeletal fingers direct

visitors through a labyrinth of gaudily festooned chambers. A fantastic over-lifesize altar in pristine white satin dominates one room. Made by Eugenio Reyes Eustaquio, who came here specially to build the structure in 15 days, this elaborate present for the newly dead looks as enticing as a wedding-cake. But it lacks the exuberance of the vast, intricately modelled pottery candelabra, the show's flamboyant highlights.

One, from the town of Izucar de Mazamoras, contains a skeleton orchestra playing with manicured conviction. Another, fashioned into a tree of life, grows out as a symbol of human evolution from the planet Earth at the centre.

Hogarth's monument to the pugilist is echoed by a struggle between Death and the Devil, an apocalyptic figure with black ribs and yellow horns who expires in agony after a thrust from Death's sword. But other skeletons enjoy

themselves just as vigorously throughout the show, supremely in a teeming 'Market of the Dead' where they dance, booze, stuff their mouths with melon and even brandish "telephone" booths above their heads.

Mexican children learn about death at an early age, regarding it as another part of life rather than an unmentionable terror. Neither morbid nor sentimental, this brazen and irresistible show is astonishingly affirmative. As well as keeping the memory of the dead alive, and offering solace with the idea of the soul's annual return, the Mexican ritual replaces fear with an unexpected feeling of exhilaration. No healthier corrective to our futile evasion of mortal facts could possibly be imagined.

The Art of Death is at the Victoria & Albert Museum (071-938 8500) until March 22, and The Skeleton at the Feast is at the Museum of Mankind (071-323 8041) until 1993

CRITIC'S CHOICE GALLERIES

● **ANDREA MANTEGNA:** As one of Mantegna's greatest works, the great series devoted to *The Triumphs of Caesar*, is in this country and has been part of the royal collection since Charles I. London seems a logical place to launch the first major retrospective of the painter for many years. (It goes on to the Metropolitan, New York.) Mantegna is under-estimated among 15th-century Italian artists in his strong historicist flair and the feeling he always gives of passionate energy held in check (but only just) by the disciplines of classical form. As well as eight of the nine *Triumphs*, the show includes important loans from the Uffizi, the Louvre, the Metropolitan and elsewhere. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 (071-438 7430). Daily, 10am-6pm, until April 5. Sponsored by Olivetti.

● **ALBERTO SAVINIO:** Giorgio de Chirico made his reputation more quickly than his younger brother Andrea, known professionally as Alberto Savinio. He also slowly frittered it away while Savinio, having once decided to concentrate on painting, produced an oeuvre of exemplary consistency and power. He was a Surrealist of disturbing and rather nightmarish vision. He was also an important Surrealist writer and sometimes composer, who until now has been unjustly neglected outside Italy. This show makes amends. Accademia Italiana, 24 Rutland Gate, SW1 (071-225 3474). Tues-Sat 10am-5.30pm, (Wed to 9pm), Sun 2-5.30pm, until February 23. Admission £3, concessions £1.50.

● **YEFFIM LADIZHINSKY:** Ladizhinsky was born in Odessa in 1911 and was finally permitted to emigrate to Israel in 1972, four years before his death, leaving an enormous body of work to destruction in the Ukraine as he could not afford to take it with him. Most of this retrospective show is made up of paintings from the long series *Growing Up in Odessa*, which he wrote between 1969 and 1981. The images of Jewish life are picturesque and brightly coloured, sometimes tending in style towards a sophisticated naive quality. There are also portraits, still-lives and symbolic works. Barbican Contemporary Gallery, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-588 9023). Daily 12-7.30 pm, until February 11.

● **DRAWINGS AND WATER-COLOURS FROM THE NATIONAL MONUMENT RECORD OF SCOTLAND:** The Scottish Monument Record, which celebrates its golden jubilee this year, is, naturally enough, concerned entirely with keeping and creating a record of the historic buildings of Scotland. This began with the war emergency, when many drawings were commissioned of monuments regarded as under threat. Later there has been a coherent programme of measured survey drawings of archaeological and architectural remains. The Record also collects original designs by important Scottish architects such as Bryce and Lorimer, and topographical drawings by amateurs and professionals from earlier centuries. All these areas are represented here. RIBA, Heinz Gallery, 21 Portland Square, W1 (071-580 5533). Mon-Fri 11am-5pm, Sat 10am-1pm, until February 22.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

GALLERIES: LONDON

Boardroom booty and glorious glass engravings

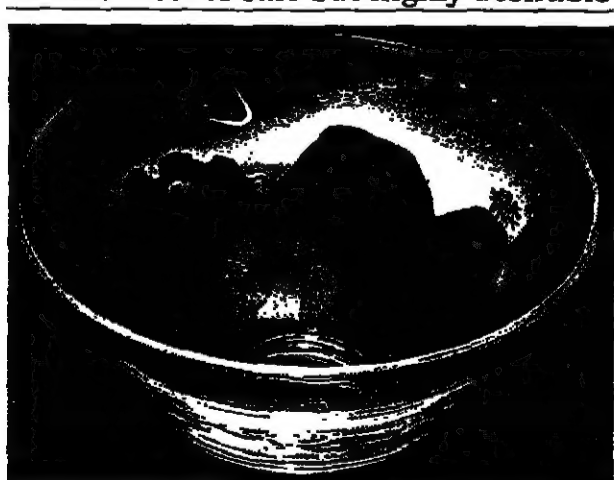
John Russell Taylor reviews gap-filling but substantial shows at London auction houses: not for sale but highly desirable

Now that stodgy portraits of managing directors are out of style, one might imagine the typical "boardroom picture" to be a smooth, inoffensive landscape in rather faded blue-green acrylics, or maybe a bright abstract of the kind which would not be amiss on the lobby carpet of an up-market multiple cinema.

But expectations are one thing, actualities quite another. Though there are a handful of pictures which might answer these descriptions among the 200-odd in The New Patrons, Christie's filler for this year's January gap between sales, what the corporate collections are investing in these days proves to be much more varied and daring.

No doubt the selectors, working for the National Art Collections Fund (which has organised the show), have a lot to do with the lively effect. Who knows what horrors are buried in corporate collections up and down the country? What matters, however, is that all of these sometimes quirky and individual acquisitions do exist in the collections of companies such as Baring Brothers, Granada, IBM, Hill Samuel and Unilever, and thanks to see such an opportunity to see them.

With very few exceptions, all the work shown here is British, and it is all 20th century. Even with the earliest pictures, there is mercifully little playing safe. Sickert is fairly safe, but it is by no means easy to recognise really good examples, and, once they are recognised, buy them.



Wessex Nightfall: Driving home along the coastline of Dorset, a 1973 engraving by Laurence Whistler

Brangwyn is hardly a blue-chip investment, but TSB's *The Slave Market* offers convincing arguments that he should be. It is pleasing to see Clausen among those represented, and even more pleasing that Barclays' *Mending the Roof* is not something predictably rustic, but an urban scene. Robert Fleming Holdings seem to have, as well they might, a corner in Scottish artists from the Colourists to Jock MacFadyen; but even here, there is no sense of tooting an expected line. There are encouraging oddities in the later English selections also. Good to see no fewer than three major works by Michael Ayrton, all from his best period at the end of the Forties and beginning of the Fifties. Ayrton is an artist who, when he is good, is very very good, and when he is bad is horrid; Baring Brothers and TSB seem to have got him about right.

More up to the minute, Eileen Cooper seems unexpectedly to have found a soft spot in the hearts of corporate collectors, and so does the elusive, neo-classical art of Ricardo Cinali, represented by a large, slightly surreal piece, *The Blue Box*, belonging to Societas Generale. The mind boggles at the logistics of putting this show together, but it is a pity there are only three weeks to enjoy the fruit of the organisers' labours.

However, that is the nature of gap-filling. At Sotheby's the gap in schedules is filled this year, most elegantly and aptly, with an 80th birthday tribute to Laurence Whistler. Whistler is not only the leading exponent of point-etching on glass in this country, but also the great engineer of its revival and a brilliant innovator.

His first venture was in 1935, when he engraved a sonnet he had written (he is also a poet) on the window of a friend's house in Northumberland. From this he moved on to engrave goblets and decanters, teaching himself as he went. The early works are very much in the shadow, stylistically, of his brother Rex Whistler. But since Rex's early death in the second world war Laurence has progressively liberated himself from Rex's personal

brand of playful rococo, and shown himself in all his true Romantic colouring, with landscapes and interiors full of pantheistic feeling, irradiated by a mystic glow akin to that of Samuel Palmer. Nowadays he prefers to work according to his own creative impulses, rather than to a tight commission, and increasingly turns towards the elegiac, with such images of transience as the tropical butterflies which escaped from a Syrian hothouse in the Great Storm.

The clear and usually untinted glass lends itself to

ideas of evanescence, and enables Whistler to produce amazing 3D effects. If one stops to consider it, the technical virtuosity of these pieces is staggering. But it is a measure of Whistler's artistic stature that one hardly ever does.

The New Patrons, Christie's, 8 King Street, SW1 (071-938 9060) Mon-Fri 9.30am-5pm, Sat-Sun 2-5pm, until January 24. Sponsored by Nuclear Electric.

Laurence Whistler, Sotheby's, 34/35 New Bond Street, W1 (071-408 5168) Mon-Fri 9am-4.30pm, until January 24.

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Sex and the South Bank savant

Kate Muir talks to Melvyn Bragg about passion and pornography — although he seems rather more keen on TV franchises

Come Monday, any sensible person will not want to be in Melvyn Bragg's brogues. It will be the morning after the showing of the first episode of his television drama *A Time to Dance* (BBC1, 9.05pm), and Mary Whitehouse, along with the crotchety screen-junkies who make up her National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, will probably be flapping angrily.

Much disgust will probably be expressed by the "moral majority" on the subject of the three-part series — the erotic obsession between an 18-year-old girl and a 54-year-old retired bank manager

"The creative process is probably very little different from gardening"

— and the gruelling opening scene of a rape will merit particular disapprobation.

In these post-Dennis Potter (*The Singing Detective*) days, one might assume that such adult drama — in the mature, not the X-rated sense — would be acceptable to a nation which finds far greater sexual liberation in its libraries and video shops. Mr Bragg rather hopes that this will be the case. It will be interesting to see if the series does cause any furore, he says, casually, but "the scenes which could be controversial are so well directed and acted that you're going to be hard put to criticise them for being salacious or in any way sleazy".

The supposedly shocking scenes include flashbacks to the rape of the young girl and his older lover, have sex, and a peeping of swear words elsewhere. But, in such scenes, Mr Bragg says, the high moralists still fail to distinguish between pornography — which he defines as "the exploitation of sex without love" — and love which includes sex and is quite a different thing. "Unless television is allowed to deal, at appropriate times, with the subjects taken on by the novel and plays, it will become a secondary medium."

Like most of his colleagues in the industry, Mr Bragg does not welcome the interference of the Broadcasting Standards Council (BSC) under Lord Rees-Mogg. Censorship of any sort affects him on every level, as a ubiquitous



"I have no hobbies, only work": novelist, biographer, screen-playwright, television personality — and darling of the mimics — Melvyn Bragg ponders the life of the interviewer being interviewed

televisioner, as a scriptwriter, as the presenter of Radio 4's *Start the Week* and London Weekend Television's *The South Bank Show*, and as the arts controller of LWT and the chairman of Border Television.

Mention of the BSC wrecks a grin from him. "I think the people involved are benign, but I think the quango itself is unnecessary. We have our own referral system for four-letter words and so on, and we abide by the laws of the land."

Mr Bragg's personal attempt to fuel the television morality debate is in fact a dramatisation of his fourteenth book, also called *A Time to Dance*. The book, set in his native Cumbria, caused a number of nudge-nudge reviews, largely because Mr Bragg is 52 and his fictional middle-class protagonist is 54. Fiction was suspended, but the happily married author and father-of-three continues to deny this.

"The idea of sexual obsessions of people who are greatly different —

young and old, or of opposite backgrounds — has always interested me. How, I don't know. Does it come out of my own life, or is it something I've seen or imagined? It is genuinely difficult to know that."

Writing a biography a few years ago of Richard Burton, which drew on the actor's diaries and centred on his stormy relationship with Elizabeth Taylor, also fuelled Mr Bragg's fascination with erotic obsession. Parts of the diaries which were too libellous to use stuck in his mind and perhaps percolated out in his fiction. "The interest is in the danger and excitement, and the destruction inherent in the obsession. It is very widespread. After the book came out, men and women wrote me saying that exactly that had happened to them."

At intervals during this exchange, Mr Bragg indicates that he would be much keener to talk about the future of television as we know it, and wriggles in his LWT executive's chair, proving

there is no worse torture for an interviewer than being interviewed.

But, if he will write so many novels which feature so much sex, and indeed are serialised in the somewhat raunchy *Esquire* magazine, what can he expect? He gives the impression that the television side of his life is the more significant one, and certainly it is less embarrassing to discuss. What he does alone with manuscripts in his holiday cottage in Cumbria is his own business.

His latest novel comes off the Bragg production line in June. As soon as he finishes one, he finds the next is itching to be written, and it is a habit he has indulged since the age of 21. The new *Crystal Rooms* is one of those state-of-Britain today novels, he admits, featuring "the very rich and the very poor, Northern Ireland, the media, and a Dickensian list of characters". Tom Wolfe is no doubt worried.

Mr Bragg, the author, is not. "I

don't want to be high-falutin' about my writing," he says. "The creative process is probably very little different from... well, gardening."

The man who says "I have no hobbies, only work", and whose bank balance supports that theory, confesses that fiction fulfils the need to be in complete control that he cannot have in television working as a team. "It is frustrating? It drives you crackers. A good cameraman gives you superb film, but then you get a film editor with cloth ears who can't cut properly to music." But on the whole, he makes *The South Bank Show* sound like some sort of utopian kibbutz, where ideas emerge not from him, but "the group".

He needs to work with people and be stimulated by them as much as he needs to be alone with a well-stocked fridge, writing in Cumbria. He puts it down to growing up as an only child in his parent's pub, the Black-a-Moor in Wigan. "I used to work upstairs on my own, and downstairs there

would be this row going on, and I liked being in both places."

Mary and Stanley Bragg were Labour supporters, and their son has never deviated from the path. "I went to my first Labour meeting aged three or four in the Temperance Hall in Wigan. I remember my mother was treasurer and my father wasn't there because of the war."

The early taste for politics went sour at university in Oxford, where he ran off in fear after seeing penguin-suited genies in Union debates. But his political instincts have again come to the fore in the recent battles over public service broadcasting and the ITV franchises. He has become a professional pundit on the subject.

Mr Bragg is still fuming that there were no reserve prices put on the regional franchises, which gave the ridiculous (though convenient) result that Border retained its franchise for a few thousand pounds, while Carlton bought the former Thames area for £42 million.

"Government foolishness is to blame for this lack of equilibrium," he says. "How can you keep up if you are £42 million in the red before you spend a penny?"

On the whole, though, he believes the quality of independent television will not fall. "ITV has no alternative but to go flat out for quality. It would be utterly foolish and misguided if it veers from that."

He has deep faith in his fellow television executives who do not want to produce a diet of quiz shows and bought-in American films, and he is convinced the amount of minority programming will increase as advertisers come to target more specific markets.

The Bragg view is suspiciously rosy. The only black point he foresees is when the BBC's charter and the fate of public service broadcasting comes up for discussion in 1996. "The government, whether Labour or Tory, will find it irresistible to meddle in that," Mr Bragg will no doubt be in there too.

You say you want 33 revolutions?

Compact disc may rule but, for some, the vinyl LP remains a collectable investment

Despite the news this week that W.H. Smith has followed Boots and Woolworth's in phasing out LPs by Easter, a hard core of British collectors is refusing to follow their example, as well as those of America and Japan, in waving goodbye to vinyl.

The counter-revolution of the turntables is being conducted by an army of Tweakers, as the music industry calls the obsessives who spend their spare hours "tweaking" their sound systems in pursuit of better performance (they are also dismissed as "flat earthers").

Having refused to be coerced into using compact discs, they are turning the LP into a highly lucrative collectable. Tweakers include Elton John (who off-loaded his art, furniture and costumes recently at Sotheby's, but kept his LPs); the snooker player Steve Davis (a collector of soul music); and Mike Read, the disc-jockey (who has 100,000 singles and 20,000 albums and calls himself a "vinyl man"). Up to £1,000 can be paid for rare albums such as the first stereo pressing of *Please Please Me*, the Beatles' first album.

According to a recent readership poll in *Record Collector*, the specialist magazine, the classic LP collector is male, and aged 28, on average, peaking at 48 ("Someone aged 12 when rock'n'roll started," says John Reed, the assistant editor of *Record Collector*). Many collectors, he says, live



Yore songs: Elton John sold his rock memorabilia, but hung on to his records

with their mums. Indeed, the classic Tweaker appears to have much in common with the trainspotter, collecting by numbers. And there are many opportunities for this, every well-known performer from the 1950s to the early 1980s was responsible, however inadvertently, for reams of issues, reissues, foreign issues and limited editions. Dedicated collectors sometimes accumulate six or seven copies of the same LP, each with minute differences in the packaging. "They say 'I only need number such and such to complete my collection of singles released by London UK,'" Mr Read says.

And so to the next category, the sound purists. Not convinced by the "remastering" techniques of CD engineers, whereby original LPs are transferred to the digital state and then teased into a perfection not pre-

viously known, the sound purist believes that the older the disc, the better it captures a performance, despite the scratches. Besides, the purists will tell you, vinyl gives the truer sound, because, way back then, the recording was made for vinyl.

More importantly, they know that the CD giants will never re-release every song recorded during the vinyl years, and that many LPs therefore have a special rarity value. "The Song of the Hump-Backed Whale", for example, can only be obtained on the Elektra Records LP produced 20 years ago. Many semi-obscure bands of the 1970s can only be revisited on vinyl, as can many recordings that capture the occasional twang, bang or groan which does not occur on the mass-produced version of a song.

The biggest frisson obtained in this category (and, incidentally, the biggest potential investment) is from the many bootleg recordings surreptitiously made by moles in recording studios. These may even include some inadvertent but choice bitching between stars, such as the infamous *Trogs* Tape, where a sound engineer captured the scatological, and highly entertaining, process of 1960s hit-makers The Trogs at work.

Duncan Kerr, the manager of Reckless Records, the second-hand music shop in London, says: "Some of the most collectable records are those containing sounds never issued legally." For this reason, bootlegs, which are easily obtainable at London street markets, or from Italian mail order firms, are racing up in price. Mr Kerr does not deal in bootlegs, for

fear of being prosecuted. Recently, Italy has become the biggest source for bootleg material from the early 1960s, due to its unusually short 25 year copyright law (compared to 50 years after the death of the composer, as in this country).

The final appeal of the old LP is its sleeve, which lent itself to artistic excesses not open to the menagerie proportioned CD. Here again, such de scandale can help boost prices. For example, *The Man Who Sold the World*, David Bowie's second album, had a cover featuring the singer wearing a dress, and was originally withdrawn from circulation on grounds of taste. The album, in its original cover, now markets at £150. Likewise, Alice Cooper's *School's Out*, which opens up to resemble a school desk complete with graffiti and a pair of paper knickers, now sells for £25. Further desirables include the "picture disc" of the 1970s and 1980s, where the LPs themselves were printed with the cover art of pictures of the performers.

Having a famous artist design your cover can also make it collectable. Andy Warhol's design for *The Velvet Underground and Nico* — featuring, for whatever reason, a banana — is eagerly snapped up, as is an original Warhol cover for The Rolling Stones' *Sticky Fingers* with a real, and working, zip on the front (later versions of the album had to make do with a photograph of the zip).

Mr Read says he finds his albums are bulky and prone to warping, and that he looks forward to the time when their contents can be transferred on to CD. But he is a rare pragmatist among the LP collecting fraternity. There are some things that the march of technology cannot shift. For many collectors, the age of the LP has only just begun.

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Sex, politics and the scalpel

A bigger bust is now a feminist issue, writes Charles Bremner, in New York

In the matter of breasts, an anthropologist from outer space would have a tough time decoding the current rituals of the American tribe. Night and day, the TV hosts, celebrities and other assorted priests are pounding Americans with the dogma of diversity, the mantra which holds that all that matters is sincerity, self-acceptance and "being all you can be". Reading negatively to someone's appearance, or "lookism", has even been decreed an offence by the more zealous wing of the sensitivity police.

Yet, our anthropologist would be perplexed to note, millions of the tribe — mostly women but men as well — are rushing to submit to the surgeon's knife in the quest for identical big breasts, or, in the case of men, sculptured chest muscles.

Breasts have become big news over the past week, thanks to the government's decision to halt silicone gel implants, pending a study of possible dangers, but they are of course only the leading edge of the extraordinary craze for a common model of physical beauty.

Last year, more than three million citizens, three-quarters of them women, spent an average of \$6,000 paying surgeons to improve or delay nature's handiwork. A desire for a better décolleté has sent some 1.6 million women to the operating altar in the past 10 years. Where elective surgery used to be the preserve of actors and anchorwomen, the market has now gone mass.

New York parents offer their teenage daughters nose-jobs as birthday presents, shop managers advise assistants to get that extra edge with a facelift, thirty-something executives are forking out big bucks for tummy tucks and dimpled chins. Providing the service is a \$300 million a year industry, operating mainly from doctors' private surgeries. (Their freedom from supervision by any authority is surprising, given America's modern obsession with avoiding the smallest risks.)

Thanks to the relentless sales promotion of surgeons and the cult of physical perfection, an enhanced body has now become a fashion accessory, conveniently available like contact lenses at the local shopping-centre and payable by credit card. "Larger, fuller breasts can be achieved usually in about an hour," says one California advertisement. "No one need be plain," says another.

If anyone needs proof of the big money in jeopardy in the silicone brouhaha, they need only glance at the huge defensive campaign by the industry. Americans, the advertisements said, were threatened with the loss of one of those inalienable rights guaranteed in the constitution: the right to feel good about the way they look.

So how does the anthropologist explain the contradiction between the scramble for identical perfection, modelled usually on the

features of the Barbie Doll or the Playboy pin-up, and doctrines of individual identity? Two conflicting explanations are being offered by tribal ideologists. One group, dominated by younger neo-feminists, holds that big breasts and the pain of the scalpel are a political weapon being wielded by a frightened patriarchal society to make women feel insecure and keep them down.

"Caught in a web of self-hatred, women mutilate themselves with plastic surgery," says Naomi Wolf, the 28-year-old author of *The Beauty Myth*, a polemic published last year. Susan Faludi, another young writer, reaches similar conclusions in *Backlash*, a bestseller which sees women as victims of a male counter-revolution which reimposes ancient ideals of female pulchritude as painful as Chinese footbinding or Victorian corsets. Sharing this outlook are the denizens of the new sexual penetration as a violation of a woman's civil rights.

By contrast, many old bolshieks of the feminist movement can be spotted in the opposing camp. This group, which includes Cher, Madonna, Jane Fonda, Gloria Steinem and other role models from the entertainment world, sees no paradox at all in the surgery craze. It is everyone's right, they say, to improve their self-esteem in any way they want, an argument that applies as well to the men who are increasingly applying to surgeons for buttock implants and other body sculpting.

In a society that celebrates sexuality as much as modern America, there is nothing inappropriate about enhancing one's features, Ms Fonda argues to former disciples of her old credo of physical exercise who are grappling with the news of her recent breast implants. She sees no contradiction with her feminism: "It's very important to me that I feel and look as good as I possibly can and that I please my man as much as I can," said the 54-year-old Ms Fonda, who last month married Ted Turner, the Rhet Butler of television moguls. "It makes me feel good to look sexual, to feel sexual," she said.

Another branch of the same school, led by Madonna, has taken to treating sexuality as a feminist weapon, to be showed in the faces of men, both a fetish and a form of "empowerment". The anthropologist would be relieved to note, however, that there is no paradox in the economics of the breast business. The rules of the market reign supreme. Now that thousands of surgeons have become millionaires, the intervention of the government has gladdened the hearts of lawyers who are predicting a bonanza of lucrative litigation from suits against doctors and implant makers. One Houston law firm is drumming up business with advertisements which ask: "Are dream breasts to die for?"



The Most Important Decision I Ever Made Was Choosing My Spouse. The Second, My Plastic Surgeon.

Second choice: an advert in New York magazine

Joanna Pitman, in Tokyo, on why the Japanese seem to prefer Barbara Bush to her husband

Formidable first lady

Barbara Bush has been transformed overnight into something of a national heroine in Japan, soaring past Margaret Thatcher to capture first place in Japan's beauty contest of international statesmen and women. Yesterday morning, producers of such chat shows as *Big Morning* and *Nice Day* ushered in panels of Japanese ladies of the highest imperial and parliamentary pedigree to lionise "Mrs President" for her beauty and composure.

The near deification of America's first lady comes after millions of Japanese, watching live on prime-time television on Wednesday night, saw an unruffled Mrs Bush stand up at a state banquet minutes after her husband had been rushed off for emergency medical treatment, and deliver a speech in his place, joking that he must have collapsed as a result of being beaten by the Japanese emperor in a tennis match.

Even one of Japan's former first ladies, Sachiko Kaifu, wife of the unimpressive former prime minister Toshiki Kaifu, was moved to appear on the top morning slot yesterday to pay homage to Mrs Bush. "I would have been all of a jitter myself," she confided to millions of housewives. "But she reacted so bravely. She should be an example to us all. She's really a beautiful lady." Yesterday's *Mainichi* newspaper paid similar tribute, reporting that Mrs Bush was "simply terrific" and that all of Japan should take note of "this wisdom and bravery in the face of potential disaster".

Alas, the same has not been said about her husband and the team of travelling salesmen he has brought with him to squawk about Japan's unfair trading practices and to lay the blame for America's economic ills on Tokyo's doorstep.

The most outspoken Japanese commentators, still picking over the details of the presidential illness yesterday, concluded that it is symbolic of America's economic health. "America has always stood for such grand beliefs as freedom and democracy. That is all very well, but clearly their economy and their president are sick

and here they are begging for us to rescue them," said Sumiko Takahara, former director-general of the economic planning agency.

In private, the Japanese are scornful, and rightfully so, of Mr Bush's attempts to turn a political summit into a trade fair for American products, but good manners have prevented them this week from asking Mr Bush why he has stooped to the thankless task of being a travelling car salesman in Japan. He has picked precisely the wrong product. The Japanese do not want the cars America is trying to sell. They are too big for the parking spaces in Japanese cities; they are too far to turn the corners of Tokyo's narrow streets; they guzzle too much gas, and they do not have names that attract Japan's label-conscious consumers (the Lettuce, the Fox and the Capuccino have been recent home-grown winners here).

Smirking behind politely raised hands, the Japanese point out that

Mr Bush is vainly trying to revive an American industry that is already doomed. Few will admit, however, that Japan's car industry has been responsible for its downfall. This week many have instead attempted to blame the profligacy and short-sighted policies of the visiting chairman of America's big three car manufacturers, Lee Iacocca, the surly chairman of Chrysler, has drawn uncharacteristic fire from the Japanese press, which has made much of his ludicrous salary of \$4.65 million. His Japanese counterparts are paid between \$300,000 and \$400,000, and taxed at a rate of 65 per cent.

The rise and rise of Japan's car industry, as well as its microchip and other "strategic" industries, has been carefully orchestrated over decades. The government has relentlessly pursued a time-honoured policy of maximum penetration — or as some Americans might say, eventual domination — of world markets. Its

strategy has been to guide the private sector to examine good new foreign products not yet matched in Japan, to build protectionist walls around domestic markets until Japanese manufacturers have matched the products, and only then to begin considering whether to grant access to the already fated foreign product. The relatively low cost of capital in Japan allows domestic producers to flood overseas markets with cheaper versions of these products, gradually refining and improving them until they are beyond the reach of all but the best capitalised foreign competitor.

While Americans have been trying to bully Japan into energising America's ailing industries, Japan has been quietly cherishing and protecting the industries of the future. Mr Bush and his blow-wave entourage should be looking beyond cars, semi-conductors and computers, and should be talking about the industries of the future, such as aerospace and satellite communications. This week, many Japanese have concluded that Mr Bush is a bit of a loser. Some might prefer to put their money on Mrs Bush.

Me and my Treasury shadow

Taxation divides the parties less than they pretend, argues Peter Riddell

A perverse result of the convergence of Tory and Labour approaches over the past year has been to magnify claims about policy differences. After a week of intensive megaphone campaigning — the Tories have even launched Michael Heseltine, their all-purpose nuclear threat — the only way to survive until polling day is to turn down the volume. Real contrasts on tax and spending exist and are at the heart of the political debate, but they are not nearly as large as the parties claim. British voters face a choice not between high and low taxes, as John Major pretends, but between different types of taxation amounting to a similar overall tax burden.

The Tories' room for manoeuvre is restricted by what the public demands, and Labour's is restricted by what the public is willing to finance. If voters want a comprehensive welfare state, they have to pay. That determines the approximate level of taxation. The British tax burden is greater than in America and Japan, but less than the European average because of variations in the scope of the welfare state.

Attitudes towards the growth of the public sector can cause change, as they did in the mid 1970s. Since the early 1960s, public spending and taxes had been rising steadily as a proportion of national income under both parties, as the range of state activities expanded. But this began to test the willingness of workers to pay. Many voters came to regard government not as help but as a burden. Later, an era of expansion has been replaced by an era of containment, but that has not led to any desire for cuts in social provision.

Since the mid 1970s, the relative growth of the public sector has been held in check. After a sharp rise during the 1960s, the tax burden has fluctuated narrowly. Since 1979, it has risen from 34.7 to 37.7 per cent, mainly because the Tories used much of the

available money to reduce public borrowing and even to repay public debt for a period in the late 1980s. The burden has fallen slightly since the mid 1980s.

Conservative boasts about being the party of lower taxes rest mainly on the series of cuts in income tax, particularly for the better-off. For most wage-earners, these cuts have been offset by higher national insurance contributions and VAT payments, although living standards have risen because of the rapid growth of real earnings.

All the Tories can really claim is that they are the party which tries to contain the growth of the overall tax burden. By contrast, for all its pre-election assurances, Labour has been the party of higher average income taxes (much higher for the better-off) and a somewhat greater overall tax burden. The contrast has been small in aggregate since the mid 1970s, even though the differences have been large for the top 5 to 10 per cent of income-earners.

Labour says it recognises these constraints, especially following its disavowal of the tax issue in the 1983 and 1987 election campaigns. Neil Kinnock said this week that average wage-earners were paying enough in tax. Labour is adamant that the standard tax rate will not rise. Its main proposals are the removal of the current ceiling on employees' national insurance contributions of just over £20,000 a year (as well as extending this levy to savings). Top marginal rates would be raised from 40 to 50 per cent for those earning well over £30,000, contrary to recent international trends in favour of lower, lower, rates. This money would be used mainly to finance higher child benefits and pensions, although some Labour spokesmen wish there was more flexibility.



Lifting the contributions ceiling would raise marginal rates by 9 per cent for 13 per cent of taxpayers. But the proportion is much higher in the South-east where earnings of many skilled workers are around this level. This includes many younger male workers, the C2s, whose pockets were filled by Mrs Thatcher and whose support the Tories have failed to win back in the past year. Labour has begun to realise that this proposal is not going to help in the several marginal seats around London which it needs to win.

The Tories argue that Labour's spending plans amount to an extra £35 billion and can only be financed by a further 10p on income tax, the "bombshell" featuring on more than a thousand Tory posters. Labour argues that such "aspirations", not commitments, would be fulfilled only when revenue becomes available from economic growth. But the

Tories have already spent the growth dividend. Planned increases in public spending will be financed, not only by the tax receipts from the resumption of expansion, but also by higher public borrowing. A likely £20 billion in 1991-2, or 3 per cent of national income, will be near the guidelines allowed in the EC monetary treaty, though still less than the EC average. This is not a rigid discipline, since this limit triggers talks rather than retaliatory action and there is scope for borrowing for investment.

In the absence of unexpectedly rapid growth, the only way Labour could implement its spending "aspirations" would be by maintaining public borrowing at a high level, even increasing it slightly, rather than steadily eliminating it as the Tories assume. And Labour may be forced to raise the tax burden,

even though any increase in taxes for most people under Kinnock would probably be much less than in the Wilson years.

Labour remains vulnerable on taxation, as it has been since the 1959 election. The "bank managers' economic team around John Smith may offer reassurance, but Labour still favours a more active role for government than the Tories, and that needs financing.

Despite repeated polling evidence that the public prefers better public services, to tax cuts, most politicians work on the assumption that voters are not so altruistic. Hence, the Tories may find it irresistible on political grounds to reduce income tax in the Budget, since Mr Kinnock has already promised to reverse such a cut if he wins the election. There are few better issues for the Tories to dramatise the contrast between the parties when the real gap in macroeconomic policy is so small.



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

I am standing, this morning, in the front garden of Number 6, Basing Hill, a street but half a mile from my own, and I am hurrying down the arches of the years. I am heading for December 14, 1920.

It is noon, that Tuesday, and 6 Basing Hill looks good. Why should it not? It has only just been built, a fat redbrick villa, a sign of post-war recovery, a home fit for a hero. And, in a few minutes' time, it will have one: though not before it has stopped looking pretty good. It will be looking pretty bad, by then.

But before we meet him, we must drop in on a more literal yesterday, to find me standing in line at Cricklewood Timber, and behind me an elderly gent, who, as we waited, said: "When I was a kid, this was an airport. It was the first international airport in England."

I looked at him. You can never tell with elderly gents. "Cricklewood Airport?" I said. "When was that?"

"1920," he said. "It had its own customs shed. You could fly to Paris and back for 18 guineas. Also Brussels, some days." "Next," said Cricklewood Timber, and I paid for my wood, and I drove home, and I thought, what the hell, they can only ask me to pull the other one. So I telephoned the RAF Museum at Hendon.

But they did not snigger. They said, yes indeed, Cricklewood Airport, come over, we have books, magazines, records, and within the hour I was walking past a sculpted mural which ran:

"Flight without feathers is not easy." Plautus, 250-184 BC, and into both the library and a tale which Plautus himself might have quilled in evidence.

I started joyously, mind, fit to lift the heart of one who has never sought, as you know only too well, to find any twinkle beneath this village's thick bushel. For in 1912, I discovered, Handley Page set up an aircraft factory off Cricklewood Lane. It had a good war, and so flourished that, in September 1919, HP Transport was formed, initiating a scheduled service to Paris and Brussels, flying a modified HP O/400 heavy bomber carrying two crew and six passengers.

My heart pounded: Cricklewood an international byword, even in Flemish! Not mind, that my predecessors were grateful: a cutting from *Aeroplane Monthly* read: "Locals have complained of soot being driven down their chimneys by passing HPT aeroplanes. They also consider it unsafe to stand on the top decks of tramcars." What ingrates! For me, the blood sang, the cheeks glowed. Here, at last, was local history!

They did not glow for long: moments later, they had drained. For history has its ups and downs, notably aviation history, and you will guess the rest: we have been there before, you and I, we have learned that when it comes to Cricklewood, it does not stay. This time, it was *Flight* magazine for December 16, 1920, which turned Cricklewood's claim to fame into its

claim to notoriety: "On December 14, a few minutes after noon, G-EAMA struck a tree during take-off from Cricklewood, and stalled into Number 6, Basing Hill. The pilot, mechanic, and two passengers were killed. Four other passengers were slightly hurt."

And that, I'm afraid, is the Cricklewood milestone which the world will remember: look, as I have now looked, in *The Shell Book of Firsts*, but do not look under Airline Glory, look under Airline Disaster. Mere weeks later, they stopped the service, they took our customs shed away, and they looked on Cricklewood and found it good. Yet it is not grief alone which brings me musing, this morning, to the garden of 6 Basing Hill. I promised you a hero, and you shall have one. So let me end with words more splendid than any I could cobble. From C.H. Barnes's account in his *Handley Page Aircraft since 1907*: "Eric Studd, the sole occupant of the nose cockpit, was thrown clear, but when the rescue party arrived he was nowhere to be found, and was feared lost in the wreckage. Next day, however, he was seen in Paris, having no clear memory of how he got there; apparently, he had been knocked out in the crash, and on recovering consciousness in the garden had remembered only that he had to go urgently to Paris, so he had taken the Underground to Victoria Station and travelled thence on the Boat Train via Dover and Calais."

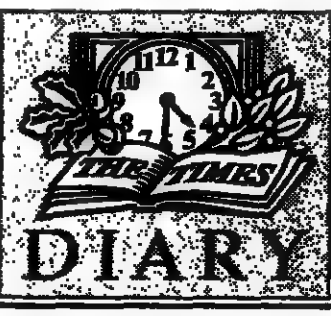
A hippy in the White House

EVENTS of the last 24 hours have dramatically increased the chances of a former hippy taking control of the White House for the first time. With George Bush's health in question, Bill Clinton has emerged as the Democrats' front-runner to take up occupancy of the Oval Office after November's presidential election.

Many people in Oxford have fond memories of the Arkansas governor when he had shoulder-length hair and a straggly beard, while studying at Oxford between 1968 and 1970. A fellow Rhodes scholar says: "Bill let his hair down both literally and metaphorically. He had shaggy blond hair, and a beard, and used his time at Oxford to relax after the tense and disciplined atmosphere of America in the grips of Vietnam trauma."

Clinton failed to complete his postgraduate degree in politics at University College, although his fellow student says this was not unusual. "There was no pressure on Rhodes scholars to gain credits, Bill certainly had fun and partied, but he also studied hard. His time in England was a broadening and resuscitating experience when he unwound from the rigidity of Washington by taking advantage of London theatres and opera."

Clinton also made a considerable impact on British students. Will Stevenson, director of the British Film Institute, who was at University College with Clinton, says: "I remember getting drunk for the first time at a party he held. He was great company and a thoroughly nice person to have around. Even at Oxford he shone brighter than his fellow Rhodes scholars, who included some very bright people such as Bill Weld, the present Republican governor



of Massachusetts. He was always interesting to talk to and very knowledgeable."

Any hopes the garden gnome industry entertained that self-confessed gnome fancier John Major would help them pull out of recession have been dashed, according to Amateur Gardening. The magazine reports that the leading manufacturer, the Northumberland-based British Gnome Stores, which markets a Margaret Thatcher garden gnome, has had no demand for a John Major version. The Thatcher version, however, remains a bestseller more than a year after she left office.

Ice work

POLAR scientists usually spend their time studying the habits of penguins or the movement of ice flows. Not one of them. A team from Cambridge's Scott Polar Research Institute is currently in the Antarctic studying the habits of that strange polar creature, the tourist. Last year there were sightings of more than 2,500 of this exotic breed, which appears to be multiplying despite adverse climate.

The polar regions section of the Foreign Office and the scientists, led by Dr Bernard Stonehouse, are concerned that overbreeding of the species is overwhelming indig-

enous life forms. Stonehouse's wife Sally, who has accompanied her husband on many past trips, but is staying in Cambridge this time, says: "They are most concerned with the effect on the penguins. Seals can look after themselves, they've got plenty of teeth. But we need to find out exactly how many tourists there are and where they go. In the future it may be necessary to have wardens." And after that perhaps even a specially designated nature reserve to contain the beast?



The Salvation Army is keeping some unlikely company these days. In order to promote its latest campaign on homelessness, the traditionally teetotal Sally has signed up with the ad agency WCRS. The agency's best-known other clients include Bass, Carling Black Label and Johnnie Walker.

Downhill all the way THE mother of parliaments will need a little luck today if it is to win the mother of all races on the ski slopes of Davos. A team of British parliamentarians is due to take on the Swiss parliament in the annual

skiing race, looking for Britain's third win in 20 years.

If Westminster brings off a rare victory, it will celebrate tonight with a nine-course dinner at the Hotel Fluela. But do not waste too much money on a patriotic wager. Already, in practice, Britain's star skier, Winston Churchill MP, has rendered himself *hors de combat* with his neck in a collar after his third skiing accident sustained in Westminster corridors.

Lord Lyell, the team captain, remains confident. With utter contempt for current fashions in day-glo ski wear, his lordship skis in full Everton football club kit. For the contest, he will don his best: a Scotland football strip of 1978 vintage bearing the number 17. "It stands for the toughest full-back who comes on ten minutes from the end to save the game any way he can," says Lyell.

Other team members include Tim Sainsbury, Rupert Allason (alias Nigel West), John Moore and the newly knighted Sir John Hannam. Strangely, there is not a socialist member in sight.

David Puttnam, who produced Labour's party political broadcast on Wednesday night, is a versatile, not to say a flexible fellow. Many people that knew Puttnam was a prominent SDP supporter, but fewer knew he was also once a welcome guest at Tory central office. In 1988, Puttnam attended the party's national agriculture and countryside forum, where he shared the platform with Tory chief whip Richard Ryder, then a junior agriculture minister. By all accounts the two got on famously. But Puttnam's broadcast hit something of a wrong note, for at the very moment it reached its patriotic height with a passionate plea to buy British, the background music playing was Beethoven's seventh symphony.



A QUEASY OUTCOME

President Bush's visit to Japan has turned out even worse than pessimists expected. Not only has he earned few bonuses in his new vocation as American car salesman: his collapse at a banquet has cast a shadow over the 1992 election campaign, which will not be lifted despite all his Reaganesque good humour, his wife's composure and the soothing references to gastric flu.

As ever on such occasions, both sides declared the visit a success. They published a "joint strategy to promote world economic" growth, produced an economic "action plan" which amounts to little more than a few wheezes to prod Japanese car-makers into buying American, and promised to reinvigorate their long-running talks on structural barriers to trade and investment. But even Mr Bush's cries of victory were muted, and American and Japanese economists were scathing. The plan would do little to help America out of recession or affect the widening trade imbalance.

Some of the cynicism stems from past experience. Japan has repeatedly promised frustrated American leaders that it will make a real effort to open its markets, with little discernible effect. Broad agreements at political level tend to degenerate subsequently into line-by-line haggling with the powerful Japanese civil service. Much that was announced yesterday does no more than reiterate earlier unimplemented agreements.

The deeper justification for scepticism is that this whole exercise rests on flawed assumptions. Japan's five largest car makers set themselves import goals by March 1995 of about \$20 billion in foreign parts a year, up from the current level of about \$8 billion. Lee Iacocca, the Chrysler chairman, was dismissive of Toyota's agreement to increase sales in Japan of its American-made cars by a mere 20,000 in 1994. But amazingly little has been made of the obvious Japanese retort that until Detroit starts to produce cars with

right-hand drive, small enough to fit into tight parking spaces, Japanese are unlikely to buy its products. Few even in the US Commerce Department appear to realise that Japan drives on the left.

To badger Japan over the raw figures of the trade imbalance could even score Washington an own-goal. According to research cited recently in *International Affairs*, some 40 per cent of the total Japanese surplus with the US is accounted for by American-owned companies' sales to America from Japanese bases. American trade curbs might therefore end up hurting its own firms in Japan — while helping Japanese firms that have set up in America. And the value of exports from Japan by American-owned companies is larger than Japan's trade surplus with America.

Mr Bush has made much play of his crusade to open Japanese markets. But America is hardly *simon-pure*. The lengthening list of American quotas on imports from all over the world is often absurdly petty. Jamaica can sell American consumers only 970 tons of ice cream a year, Mexico only 35,292 bras, Poland 350 tons of tool alloy, desperately poor Haiti only 7,730 tons of sugar. Quotas exist on typing ribbons, tennis, table linen, tapestries and ties and much else. Since July, Mr Bush has slapped textile quotas on countries such as Nigeria, Burma, and Panama — none of which look threatening competitors.

Removing trade barriers is indeed vital, but both Mr Bush and the Japanese know that the proper world forum for this complex task is Gatt. He should have bent all his energies to enlisting Japan's help in breaking the deadlock over the Uruguay Round. Bargaining over the number of US cars on Japanese roads is futile and demeaning. Even in domestic electoral terms, Mr Bush's visit has backfired. It deserved to do so. He should plan his future trips with more care.

PUBLISH AND BE DAMNED

Manifestos are powerful symbols in the ritual of politics. Yesterday and today, John Major's cabinet has brushed aside all other tasks to debate a draft that had already received the concentrated attention of his brightest and best. Behind cabinet doors, ministers are finalising their election prospectus on the citizen's charter, on privatisation of coal and British Rail, and on further legal restrictions on strikes.

The purpose of the manifesto varies from time to time, and from party to party. The original Tenthredin manifesto of 1834 set out the new direction in which Sir Robert Peel sought to set the Tory party after the traumas of the Great Reform Act. More recent manifestos have also served inner party purposes. Labour's, under Michael Foot in 1983, was designed by the left to bind a Labour government to socialism. At other times, Labour has used the manifesto to set out the terms of a *truce* *pro tem* between the party's right and left wings. The Tories too have used manifestos to paper over internal cracks.

But in democratic theory these are perversions of the purpose of the manifesto. Its symbolic potency is differently derived: from a sense in which the manifesto sets out the terms on which a party offers to make a contract with the electors. Vote for us, the manifesto says, and this is what you will get. A minister reckons to ditch an argument in the House of Commons if his proposal was contained in his party's election manifesto. To break a manifesto promise is regarded as a heinous political sin, to be expiated only with great difficulty.

This doctrine — the manifesto as mandate — is essentially a post-war one. A case can be made that Britain would be better off without it. Manifesto pledges are conceived in particular circumstances. Circumstances change. Governments should determine their policy according to how things are

rather than how things were when the manifesto was drawn up. Many great blunders in post-war politics can be traced to the determined implementation of half-baked manifesto promises. In the present Parliament, there would have been no poll tax had it not been engraved on a tablet of stone by the manifesto. Parties, the argument runs, should go before the country on the basis of their general philosophy, of general statements of intent and of the personal qualities of their leadership, rather than offering the ragbag of pledges which constitutes a manifesto.

Be this as it may, the politicians are not yet ready to accept it. Manifestos there will be in 1992. How then could any good they do be maximised and any harm minimised? The answer is: by publishing them not as the election begins, but now. That would have a number of advantages. It would define the battleground over which the parties are fighting in a pre-election battle which, by common admission, is already under way. It would limit the extent to which one party could distort the intentions of another, providing for each a definitive statement of what it proposes. It would expose each individual proposal to a longer period of examination and debate, away from the white hot heat of the campaign itself.

The opposition parties have already gone a long way down this track. The Liberal Democrats billed their economic policy, published in September, as the source for their manifesto. Labour's "Opportunity Britain" of last April contains all the ingredients a manifesto draftsman could wish for. When the cabinet has reached its conclusions tonight, it should also decide one more thing: to propose to the other two parties that all agree to publish their manifestos forthwith, and let the people begin to make their choice.

WHEN OWLS KNOW BEST

A list of what British people dislike most about the condition of their countryside would include the replacement of grass pasture by arable crops; the absence of verges, hedgerows, coppices and other rough ground to interrupt the endless deserts of intensive farming; and the decline in wild plants, animals, insects and birds which need that rough ground. A list of what British barn owls dislike most would be identical.

Because the land is no longer so hospitable, their numbers are estimated to have fallen to fewer than 5,000 breeding pairs, below half the total before the war. Clearly owls and people should join forces — and it would not be the first time the two species had combined for their mutual benefit.

Not long ago the virgin forests on the north-west coast of the United States were steadily disappearing into the timber mills, emptying the hills and valleys of Oregon and Washington State of trees and wildlife. Conservation campaigners were powerless to arrest the advance of the lumberjack — until they made common cause with the North American spotted owl, a resident of these ancient mixed forests whose habitat was fast vanishing. Saving the spotted owl became the cause which caught the public imagination, until the state authorities themselves had to pay heed. By campaigning to save the owl, conservationists had saved the forests.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds launched its campaign on behalf of British barn owls yesterday. Given that its aim encompasses nothing less than the reform of the European common agricultural policy, the RSPB is going to need all the leverage it can get. The CAP's budget is £25 billion a year; to defend the owls the RSPB is appealing for less than £400,000 over four years. Not much of a threat to big business there — which is no doubt how Oregon's

timber barons reacted when they first saw spotted owl lapel-buttons and T-shirts. More fools they: not for nothing is the owl the representative of wisdom.

The CAP straitjacket has encouraged high productivity in farming. Now, through the set-aside scheme, it is also starting to reward zero productivity. Such market-rigging subsidies should be seen as a necessary transitional evil on the route back to economic and ecological sanity. Subsidised over-production led to the creation of monotonous landscapes bereft of everything except a monocrop. Such farmers need a financial inducement to manage their land less ruthlessly, to restore hedges and small woods so that even if the land between them remains in production, the wildlife has more and better habitat.

Land set aside will gradually become more friendly to nature, but farmers need a financial incentive to manage it properly by treating landscape and wildlife as an alternative "crop" produced for the public benefit. The Countryside Commission has pilot schemes for special areas (confined at present to East Anglia), and the RSPB's call for them to be available nationwide and on a much larger scale is timely. In selecting land to set aside farmers ought to take conservation fully into account, rather than simply choose land with the lowest crop yields.

The rethinking of the CAP is crucial to the look of the British countryside and to its capacity to support wildlife. Given the traditional British love of landscape and nature, it is the direction in which Britain should be pulling in Brussels, against the French insistence on redistributing subsidies mainly to encourage French family farms. Their cause is irrelevant to the quality of the British landscape, as it is to the interests of British barn owls.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Latest reorganisation of teacher-training courses

From Professor A. M. Lucas

Sir, As head of a university department responsible for the training of secondary school teachers, any comments I make about the secretary of state's latest proposals for the training of teachers (report, January 6) will be interpreted as special pleading. However, I wish to add some comments to those made in your leading article (January 6) by pointing out that the courses we now teach meet prescriptions set by government. Mr Clarke's current proposals are seeking to change a set of rules established by the DES as recently as November 10, 1989.

I am not a defender of the status quo that resulted from the imposition by Mrs Thatcher's government of the criteria to be met before a teacher-training course can be accredited by the secretary of state. These include a long list of social-theory items that all teacher-training courses must address.

Because all students are required to cover all topics specified in the criteria it is often impossible in a one-year postgraduate certificate in education course to devote even one full class period to some aspects. But to give this minimum treatment we have had to reduce the amount of practical experience.

In our training of science teachers, for example, we had to remove the very valuable component of our former course in which we had weekly sessions in school classrooms, where the college tutor and the class teacher would jointly guide and supervise students teaching small groups of pupils. That is, my department was forced by Conservative government criteria to teach more "theory", more superficially, with less time in school classrooms.

The secretary of state now wishes us to undo the changes we made in response to his predecessors' decisions, and go further in the other direction.

Yours sincerely,
A. M. LUCAS (Head,
Centre for Educational Studies,
King's College London,
Cornwall House Annex,
Waterloo Road, SE1.
January 6.

From Professor Hugh Burkhardt

Sir, Once again a major change in educational practice is to be implemented on a large scale without systematic development or evaluation. In the complex business of education the views of ministers or professors of philosophy are treated as a proper basis, not just for investigation but for large-scale implementation. A revolution in teacher training is the latest product of Mr Clarke's skilled eye for the plausible idea.

In education, untested innovations put into practice usually lead to outcomes that are quite different from the intentions, hence the plethora of recent changes of mind by the government which seem likely to continue.

Musical tradition

From Mr Michael I. Wilson

Sir, Contrary to your correspondent, Antonia Pierson (December 26), it has long been my hope that music-lovers everywhere will give up the foolish custom of standing for the Hallelujah Chorus. If we all stood up for every great piece of music ever performed in public, concerts and recitals would become tests of physical endurance instead of uplifting experiences.

Because George II, in a remarkable gesture, stood to acknowledge his personal respect for Handel, etiquette demanded that everyone else who was present did so too. There is no earthly reason why we should continue this illogical custom.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL I. WILSON,
3 West Avenue,
Pinner, Middlesex.

Lack of recognition

From Captain Hugh Corbett, RN (ret)

Sir, Mr Fookett (letter, December 30) was told that his ship did not qualify for a Gulf medal in Operation Desert Storm because she operated in support of US forces.

But, surely, all the forces involved were operating on behalf of the United Nations. In these circumstances, even-handed recognition of loyal service is the more important, since the cause being served is more remote than a national call to action.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH CORBETT,
Holly Cottage,
3 Clare Road, Cambridge.
January 3.

Sinking the Belgrano

From Mr A. M. Grant

Sir, Come to think of it, the Bismarck was also heading for home (letters, January 6, 9).

Yours faithfully,
A. M. GRANT,
58 Cambridge Street, SW1.
January 9.

Business letters, page 23

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

There are many things that we do not yet understand about learning and teaching but, equally, there is much that is reliably known. We need to learn more, and to provide effective support for teachers in making known good practice a reality in their classrooms. Educational effectiveness and economy can both be greatly increased by systematic development and evaluation, which inform in advance the necessary political judgments on implementation.

Other countries have similar problems to our own. They know that they are not subject to a "quick fix" but need coherent, rigorous effort over a decade or two to make the real progress of which there are many hopeful signs, here as elsewhere.

Your obedient servant,
R. A. W. LONGDEN (Principal,
Warley College of
Technology, 1984-6),
Greenbank, 41 High Street,
Amblecote,
Stourbridge, West Midlands.
January 6.

From Mr Richard Wilkins

Sir, Dr Sheila Lawlor (Education Times, January 6) is right to castigate the influence of "theorists" in education and to endorse moves towards the training of teachers by experienced practitioners. Nothing is so odious to working teachers as the pontification about education from people at a safe distance from the action. It would be reassuring in this regard for Dr Lawlor's articles to list her long, varied and rugged experience of the realities of teaching in state schools.

Educational theory does have some value, if not for the education of children at least for the understanding of adults. A cogent modern theory of educational development posits what it calls the "mythic" stage, in which life is perceived in simple opposites, light-darkness, good-evil, love-hatred. Dr Lawlor seems to perceive education and all other serious issues in these terms.

"Theorists" (at least, those with whom she disagrees) are snobs and weasels in the Wild Wood. Her world seems to be a ceaseless conflict, external to herself, between fairy princes and witches.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WILKINS
(General Secretary),
Association of Christian Teachers,
2 Romeland Hill,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.
January 6.

From Dr R. A. W. Longden

Sir, In-school experience usually comprises an observation period, when explanation to and discussion with the trainee is the extent of the practising teacher's involvement, followed by several weeks when the trainee is, for the first time, in charge of pupils.

Assiduous preparation by the instructing teacher of material, method and intentions and close supervision of delivery cannot be avoided if the trainee's interests are to be safeguarded.

The teacher begins often by regarding a trainee as the fortuitous

gift of an extra pair of hands and ends with the realisation that the process has been a considerable burden. Pupils are usually unimpressed and parents anxious.

But the secretary of state's advisers will be well aware of these circumstances and will have devised, at no insupportable expense, ways to overcome them. Staff, particularly those in the primary sector, who are struggling in the changing morass of national curriculum demands and trying (most of them) to take their pupils beyond the base-line of the assessment test will be eager to hear what they are. Parents, too, will not be uninterested.

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Yours faithfully,
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(General Secretary),
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January 6.

From Mr William Macintosh Ball

Sir, I was interested to read of today's student teachers. My grandfather, James Rennie, a schoolmaster, was a pupil-teacher in West Parish church school, Aberdeen, in 1854 at the age of 11, in accord with Privy Council provisions of the time made available in order to overcome a general shortage of teachers.

Yours faithfully,
W. M. BALL,
Kyle, 43 Thatcher Avenue,
Torquay, Devon.
January 6.

do. Labour party members do. The Liberal Democrats do. And so do many representatives of local churches. We simply stand on street corners, hand out information and talk to those people who want to talk to us. Occasionally we run an advertisement: quite low-key compared with most organisations that have a point to make. So why all the fuss?

Sir Sigmund rightly points out that the tragedy of centuries of persecution of Jews has left many Jews sensitive to contemporary Christian missionary efforts. The attempt, however, must be made. Jesus, after all, has set the agenda for his followers. Jews and Gentiles alike go to the whole world with the Good News. Why? Because Jesus says that each person's response to that news determines where they will spend eternity.

Surely, to withhold the opportunity of eternal life from Jews because of past persecutions compounds rather than relieves the offence. As Jewish people, we as Jews for Jesus are not prepared to betray our fellow-Jews in that way. And there are many Jewish people and indeed non-Jewish people who now follow Jesus who are very grateful that we have not.

Yours faithfully,
MARK GREENE (Chairman,
Jews for Jesus (UK)),
London Bible College,
Green Lane, Northwood, Middlesex.
January 9.

Random breath-testing

From Professor B. N. C. Prichard

Sir, Your leader, "Driven from drink" (January 3), is surely mistaken in regard to random breath-testing. It would not be "harassing" innocent motorists to introduce a properly controlled system of random testing. There is ample evidence to show that it would be a powerful means of reducing the number of drinking drivers and, as convincingly shown by several opinion polls, the overwhelming majority of motorists wish to see random testing introduced.

The great majority of road users would be pleased to trade modest inconvenience for reduced risk from the irresponsible core who persist in drinking and driving.

You are right, however, to argue that the existing legal limit is too high. A lower limit combined with random testing are the two principal

Muslim role in law and society

From Mr S. Taqi al-Sadiq

Sir, The Muslim parliament, of which I am a member, has been set up neither to legislate nor to claim a non-territorial Muslim state (report, January 6). Its sole purpose is to define, defend and promote the interests of Muslims in this great country in all aspects — including politics.

There is therefore no justification for fears of separatism, nor are there any grounds for blaming Muslims for forming a platform from which to negotiate with government and local authorities on their behalf in a professional and lawful manner.

The lack of teaching of Islamic values in state schools means that young Muslims are confused by the demands made by their parents and religion on the one hand and the modern liberal approach of British society on the other. The Muslim parliament aims to help legislative authorities at every level to redress this problem and to provide the right atmosphere and laws for these young Muslims and their families.

We are here to provide choice to parents. They should be able to send their children to Muslim schools (voluntary-aided) if they so wish.

Yours faithfully,
S. TAQI AL-SADIQ
121 Sussex Gardens, W2.
January 8.

From Mr Christopher Derrick

Sir, I write as a Roman Catholic, not as a Muslim. But I remember the English Catholic martyrs; and whatever else may be said about the "Muslim parliament", it does at least remind us of laws higher than those of the state — higher also than "social attitudes which most people in this country accept" (Janet Daley, "Combating the fanatics", January 7).

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER DERRICK,
6 St Michael's Road,
Wallington, Surrey.

From Mr Ibrahim B. Hewitt

Sir, Janet Daley's assertion that Dr Siddiqui's group is "opposed to some of our most fundamental freedoms, such as that of... a woman to be educated" is, I fear, based more on her desire to see Islam the way she wants to believe it to be rather than on solid fact: "Seeking knowledge is obligatory upon every Muslim" is just one of the sayings of Prophet Muhammad on this matter. He did not just say "every Muslim male".

Quite how demands for "separatist Muslim schooling" differ from demands for separatist Christian and Jewish schools — other than that the former remain unfulfilled whilst the latter are accommodated — again must be presumed to be part of Ms Daley's apparent prejudice against and ignorance of Islam.

Yours faithfully,
IBRAHIM B. HEWITT
(Assistant Director),
The Muslim Educational Trust,
130 Stroud Green Road, N4.

From Mr R. J. Norton

Sir, I and many other Jews came to England some 50 years ago in peril of our lives, not to better ourselves economically. We were grateful for the sanctuary given and did our utmost to integrate ourselves into British life.

Over the years we have contributed out of all proportion to our numbers to the cultural, scientific, academic and commercial life of this country. We have not asked for state charity but created our own well-being, adhered to our customs and faith, yet at all times we have respected the laws and customs of our host country and fellow citizens.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. NORTON,
140 Loughborough Road,
Ruddington, Nottingham.

From Mr D. B. Ryder

Sir, The recent American, use of rising infection at the end of a factual statement may not, after all, be a sign of tentative speech (Charles Bremner's article, January 3).

Rather, I suppose it is polite avoidance of a direct question. Thus, the man in uniform at Keweenaw airport is not simply asking, "I'm a customs officer?" but, "I'm a customs officer and what are you carrying in your suitcase?"

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS HOBBS,
17 Harker Terrace,
Pudsey, West Yorkshire.

Raised voices

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Yours faithfully,
CHRIS HOBBS,
17 Harker Terrace,
Pudsey, West Yorkshire.

From Mr R. Jeffay

Sir, The customary reply to "Why do Jews answer a question with a question?" is "Why shouldn't we?" (letter, January 8).

Yours etc.,
R. JEFFAY,
14 Pinnill Brow, Manchester 12.

150 من الال



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM
January 9: Lady Abel Smith has succeeded the Hon Mary Morrison as Lady-in-Waiting to the Queen.

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 9: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Patron, The Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland, opened the Association's Diamond Jubilee Scientific Meeting at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London SW1, this evening. Lady Aird was in attendance.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Nilsen Stensen, anatomist, Copenhagen, 1638; John Acton, 1st Baron Acton of Aldenham, historian, Naples, 1834; Karl Wetach (Grock), clown, Kockwiler, Switzerland, 1880; Robinson Jeffers, poet, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, 1887; Dame Barbara Hepworth, sculptor, Wakefield, 1903.

DEATHS: William Laud, archbishop of Canterbury 1633-45, executed, London, 1645; Carolus Linnaeus, botanist, Uppsala, Sweden, 1778; Mary Butler, poet, essayist and dramatist, Swallowfield, Berkshire, 1855; William Frederick Cody (Buffalo Bill), Denver, Colorado, 1917; Sinclair Lewis, novelist, Nobel laureate, 1930, Rome, 1961; Gabriella Mistral, poet and novelist, Nobel laureate, 1945, New York, 1957; Dashiell Hammett, writer, 1901; Gabrielle (Coco) Chanel, fashion designer, Paris, 1971.

Sir Yue-Kong Pao

A service in memory of Sir Yue-Kong Pao will be held in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, at noon on Thursday, January 23, 1992. Those wishing to attend are invited to apply for tickets in writing to: The Keeper's Secretary, Room 23, The Chapter Office, 20 Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey, London, SW1P 3PA, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. All are welcome to attend.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Sir Donald Acheson to be Chairman of the Health Advisory Committee for the Prison Service; Mr David A. Thompson, Chairman of Rank Xerox UK, to be Chairman of Sight Savers (Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind), in succession to Sir Frank Mills.

Church news

Canon Michael Middleton, Rector of Hexham, diocese of Newcastle, has been appointed Archdeacon of Swindon, diocese of Bristol, from July 1. He succeeds the Ven Kenneth Clark, who retires in May after 10 years as archdeacon.

Derrick Hartley Russell

A memorial requiem mass for Derrick Hartley Russell will be held at Douai Abbey, Westhampton, on Friday, January 24, 1992, at 2.30pm.

School announcements

Church's College, Petersfield
Lent Term began at Church's College on Tuesday, January 7. The Entrance Examinations are to be held on Saturday, February 8. Old Churchians' Day will be on Sunday, March 22, with the Old Boys v 1st XI Hockey match at 2.30pm. The new Sports Hall is now in use and the official opening will be held during the term. Term ends on Friday, April 3, following the Founder's Day Service.

King William's College, Isle of Man
Spring term begins today. James Quinn and Stephanie Jackson are

Birthdays today

Sir Walter Bodmer, geneticist, 56; Mr Eddie Cheever, racing driver, 34; Sir Robin Chichester, former MP, 64; Mr Justin Evans, youth and recreation worker, 89; Sir Arthur Gold, honorary life president, European Athletic Association, 75; Mr Sidney Giller, musician, 81; Mr Derek Hammond-Stroud, baritone, 66; Sir David Hopkin, chief metropolitan stipendiary magistrate, 70; Sir Derek Hornby, chairman, British Overseas Trade Board, 62; Sir Robert Marshall, civil servant, 72; Dr Peter Mathias, master, Downing College, Cambridge, 64; Mr Denis Peach, former chief charity commissioner, 64; Mr Anon Rodgers, actor, 59; Mr Rod Stewart, rock singer, 47; Mrs Valerie Strachan, a deputy chairman, HM Customs and Excise, 52; Mr Errol J. Yates, chairman and managing director, Kodak, 62.

Today's royal engagement

The Duchess of Kent, as Patron of the Duchess of Kent's Macmillan Fund, will attend a concert given by the Birmingham Chamber Orchestra at the International Convention Centre at 7.00.

Memorial service

Major Roger Mortimer, a service of thanksgiving for the life of Major Roger Mortimer was held yesterday at the Church of St Michael and All Angels, Lambourn, Berkshire. The Rev William Stewart officiated and read the lesson, assisted by the Rev Richard Mortimer, son, read from the works of Harry Graham and Shakespeare. Brigadier Raoul Lempriere-Robin gave an address.

Association of Lancastrians in London

Sir William Barlow has been installed as President of the Association of Lancastrians in London for the ensuing year. Dr N.B. Smith has been elected deputy president and Lord Taylor of Blackburn elected a vice-president.

Dinner

The Lord Mayor entertained at dinner at Guildhall last night the Chief Commoner and members of the Court of Common Council, the Lord Mayor of Westminster, the High Sheriff of Greater London, Mayors and Leaders of Greater London Boroughs, Aldermen, High Officers of the Corporation of London and Ward Clerks of the City of London. The Lord Mayor, the Lord Mayor of Westminster and the Chief Commoner were the speakers.

Award

Cochmakers and Coach Harness Makers' Company Mr Denis Burrell, Master of the Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers, has presented Mr Peter Ward with the company's 1991 Award to Industry.

University news

Oxford
Elections
ORIEL COLLEGE
The election of fellows for the year 1991-92 will be held on January 10. The candidates are: Mr J.H. Sanders, MA, Balliol, fellow of the college and tutor in physics 1986-91; Mr J.H. Sanders, MA, Balliol, fellow of the college and tutor in physics 1986-91; Mr J.H. Sanders, MA, Balliol, fellow of the college and tutor in physics 1986-91.

Queenswood School
The Spring Term at Queenswood School begins on Sunday, January 12, and ends on Saturday, April 4. Confirmation will be on Saturday, March 28, the Service being conducted by the Bishop of Bedford and the Rev G. Rogers. The School Concert will be on Saturday, March 14, at 3.00pm.

Doctor of Letters: Mr David Putnam, film producer and president, Council for the Protection of Rural England; Miss Diana Rigg, actress.

Doctor of Music: Miss Fanny Waterman, pianist.

Doctor of Science: Sir Charles Frank, FRS, physicist; Professor Stephen Jay Gould, professor of geology and zoology, Harvard University.

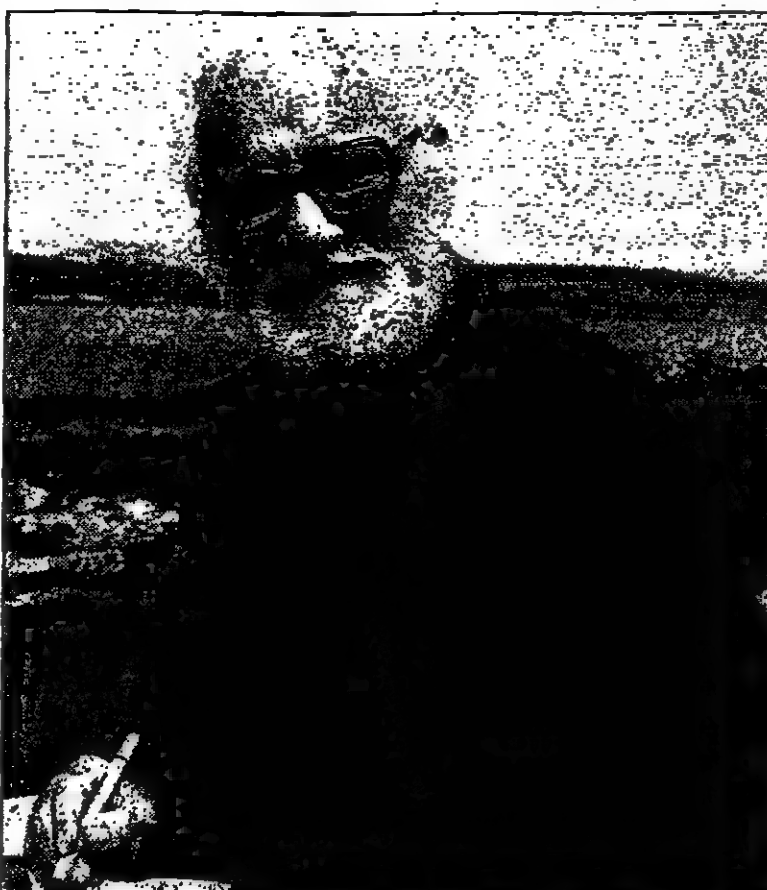
Birmingham
Appointments
The personal title of professor of biblical studies has been conferred on Dr M. D. Goulder, reader in the school of continuing studies, from last October.

Dr D. J. Kerr, senior lecturer in medical oncology and honorary consultant physician at Glasgow University, to the chair of clinical oncology, from April 1.

Professor M. G. Robinson, director of drama at Loughborough University, to the chair of drama and theatre arts, from April 1.

OBITUARIES

BILL NAUGHTON



Bill Naughton, novelist and playwright, died yesterday in the Isle of Man aged 81. He was born in Ballyhaunis, County Mayo, on June 12, 1910.

BILL Naughton, son of Irish parents who left for Lancashire in search of a better life soon after he was born, was most famous for his novel *Alfie* (1966). This was a reworking of a tale of a sexy opportunist. *Alfie* first saw life as the radio play *Alfie Elkin* and his *Little Life* (1962), and then in the London stage production at the Mermaid in 1963, with John Neville in the title role and Gemma Jones as one of the women he wronged. It was filmed soon after, rather slackly directed by Lewis Gilbert but with Michael Caine as a memorable *Alfie* and Vivien Merchant playing the put-upon female.

The film, helped by Caine and a title song, spurred sales of the book and turned Naughton into one of the most successful of the "North Country" writers. But *Alfie*, although an example of well-executed popular writing and important in its own right, was by no means his best work.

Naughton grew up in Lancashire, as he vividly related in the semi-fictional sketches of his first (and best) book, *A Roof Over Your Head* (1945). He was educated at St Peter & St Paul School, Bolton, and thereafter, during the late 1920s and 1930s, worked as a weaver, coal-hagger, long distance lorry driver and, finally, before taking to writing, as a civil defence driver during the war.

A Roof Over Your Head, published by Pilot Press, was commissioned by Charles Madge who was at one time, like Naughton, a member of the Mass Observation team. It remains one of the most moving accounts of what life was like under the shadow of the dole queue in the north of England. It was described by John Berger as a "work of genius", although Naughton himself could never see why. His later writing became sentimental, if only in the best possible manner; but these early sketches (which end with fragments from a wartime diary) are all the more effective for being entirely unselfish. Not a few readers have been reminded by it of the relentless accuracy of L. S. Lowry.

Pony Boy (1946), a story for boys, which followed it, is almost as good, as are the majority of the stories finally collected as *Late Night on Watling Street* (1959). These first appeared in magazines in the 1940s and 1950s and helped to make Naughton's name. By the time he came to write the novel *One Small Boy* (1957), the story of how a west Irish family just like his own came to the Lancashire mill town, he had lost the touch of genius, although even this is a charming and enlightening book.

Much of Bill Naughton's early dramatic work was for radio and television for all levels of brow. He was just as likely to be heard on the Light as on the Third Programme. He began writing stage plays in the late 1950s. The first, produced as *My Flesh, My Blood* (1957), eventually became *Spring And Port Wine*; it was produced at the Mermaid, the London

theatre with which Naughton will always be associated, in 1965 with Alfred Marks in the lead. It then became a film in 1970, directed by Peter Hammond and starring James Mason as a stern father who has a not-too-convincing change of heart. With *All in Good Time* (another Mermaid play) and *Alfie* it forms the dramatic trio by which Naughton will be remembered.

The sometimes brutal realism of *Alfie* was just enough to keep its sentimentality in check, and Naughton deserved its immense success. Alas, his attempt to capitalise on it, *Alfie Darling* (1970), his feeblest effort, was of no consequence, although he had nothing to do with the script for the film version of 1975. *The Family Way* (1966), for which he wrote the script with Ray Boulting and the experienced Jeffrey Dell, about a bridegroom who cannot consummate his marriage, was sharper in its shorter television version, *Honeymoon Deferred*, but nevertheless had its undeniably comic moments in the British good-clean dirty-fake farcical tradition.

Probably the best of Naughton's later work is to be found in his many radio and television plays, which included on television the *Nathanial Titark* and *Yorky* series (the latter written in collaboration with Allen Prior).

Radio drama is still an unduly neglected form in Great Britain, but there is no doubt that such plays as *Timothy* (1956), *Seeing a Beauty Queen Home* (1960) and *The Mystery* (1973), which won the Prix Italia in 1974, would sound just as well today as they did when they were first performed. There were other writings, including three more sets of stories, two more children's books, and several stage plays, including some for his adopted town of Bolton.

But most notable were the two books of autobiography—again going back to his childhood, *On the Pig's Back* (1987) and *Saintly Billy* (1988). Both of these were published by the Oxford University Press, and a third, *Neither Use Nor Ornament*, awaits publication elsewhere.

Bill Naughton was fundamentally a very serious man as well as a master of the playwrighting craft and a superb humorist. Like many another in his position, he received the attentions of the media, but hardly approved of them. In his days as a long-distance lorry driver (upon which he drew for that best of all his stories, *Late Night on Watling Street*) he had haunted second hand book shops and discovered the *Meditations of Marcus Aurelius*. This in time led to a devotion to *The Cloud of Unknowing* and the works of Meister Eckhart. When (only partly for tax purposes) some 20 years ago he retired to Ballasalla in the Isle of Man, he did so in order to grow roses and to contemplate. In this he probably found what he had missed in commercial success, for he was in no sense vulgarly "occult".

He had two children by his first marriage, which ended in divorce. His second wife, the former Ernestine Prokt, survives him.

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Radio drama is still an unduly neglected form in Great Britain, but there is no doubt that such plays as *Timothy* (1956), *Seeing a Beauty Queen Home* (1960) and *The Mystery* (1973), which won the Prix Italia in 1974, would sound just as well today as they did when they were first performed. There were other writings, including three more sets of stories, two more children's books, and several stage plays, including some for his adopted town of Bolton.

But most notable were the two books of autobiography—again going back to his childhood, *On the Pig's Back* (1987) and *Saintly Billy* (1988). Both of these were published by the Oxford University Press, and a third, *Neither Use Nor Ornament*, awaits publication elsewhere.

Bill Naughton was fundamentally a very serious man as well as a master of the playwrighting craft and a superb humorist. Like many another in his position, he received the attentions of the media, but hardly approved of them. In his days as a long-distance lorry driver (upon which he drew for that best of all his stories, *Late Night on Watling Street*) he had haunted second hand book shops and discovered the *Meditations of Marcus Aurelius*. This in time led to a devotion to *The Cloud of Unknowing* and the works of Meister Eckhart. When (only partly for tax purposes) some 20 years ago he retired to Ballasalla in the Isle of Man, he did so in order to grow roses and to contemplate. In this he probably found what he had missed in commercial success, for he was in no sense vulgarly "occult".

He had two children by his first marriage, which ended in divorce. His second wife, the former Ernestine Prokt, survives him.

PASTOR EILIF KROGAGER



Pastor Eilif Krogager, pioneer of cheap holidays and founder of the Tjæreborg travel agency, died in Denmark on January 7 aged 81. He was born in Jutland on February 5, 1910.

KNOWN as Denmark's "flying vicar", Pastor Eilif Krogager, a fiery Lutheran priest in the tiny west Jutland hamlet of Tjæreborg, near Esbjerg, pioneered overseas travel for Danes, who had been starved of sun and foreign travel during the Nazi occupation in the second world war. In 1950 Krogager took a flock of 70 parishioners with him on a now historic bus tour to Spain, thus starting Tjæreborg travel agency, with the local bishop's approval. This was to lead to a business with a £450 million turnover and offices abroad, including London,

challenging many local charter operators. From modest beginnings, using the vicarage as its headquarters, Tjæreborg Travel was soon operating a fleet of 80 buses to holiday destinations in the Mediterranean area, notably Spain. In 1962, Krogager moved into the air charter package holiday market, purchasing two second hand DC6 airliners from Swissair and setting up his own Sterling Airways which was later to become Western Europe's largest privately-owned charter airline with a fleet of 40 aircraft, dispatching over a million Scandinavians on cheap charter tours to sunny holiday resorts in the south every year.

Although Tjæreborg specialised in charter holidays at exceptionally low rates to the Mediterranean, it also offered an extensive programme of tours to not-so-sunny capital cities such as London and Paris, to ski-centres in the Alps, Austria and Norway and to more exotic destinations in Africa, the Far East and the United States.

In the 1970s, under Krogager's direction, Tjæreborg opened in Germany and the British travel trade was taken by surprise when it started operations in London offering holiday packages on a cut-price, direct-sales basis. As well as straight travel operations, Krogager launched Tjæreborg into the hotel business, buying or buying shares in hotels in Austria, Italy and Spain as well as operating a major airline catering service based at Copenhagen International Airport.

Krogager was an ardent champion of cheaper air travel. Under his leadership, Sterling Airways engaged in protracted struggles against the scheduled airline SAS (Scandinavian Airlines System) on the lucrative Copenhagen-London run, offering fares at only a quarter of those charged by SAS.

Krogager resigned from his priesthood in 1972 to devote himself solely to the travel industry. "I am only a mediocre priest," he once said. "I have preached the same sermon for close on 40 years." Indeed, to many Krogager was regarded as more of an astute businessman than a man of the cloth. He adopted the modest title of travel consultant in his vast holiday concern but sold out and retired in 1988.

Krogager disposed of Tjæreborg to its main rival in Denmark's charter holiday market, the Copenhagen-based Spies Travel Agency. His charter airline Sterling Airways was sold to a Danish-Swedish consortium in 1987. He is survived by his second wife, Gorma, and their daughter.

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MARION ZUNZ

Marion Zunz, television producer, died in a skiing accident at Alpe d'Huez (French Alps) on January 5 aged 39. She was born in London on September 21, 1952.

MARION Zunz's life was an unfinished quest which moved through distant and isolated places in all the continents of the world. In the field and in the laboratories of Cambridge, she examined the character traits of animals which she loved and defended against human predators and a changing environment. Her prize-winning "Meerkats United" on *Wild Life on One* (1988) exhibited her quirky sense of humour and artistic vision.

She became known and recognised through her work with Sir David Attenborough. As producer on *Trials of Life* she shared in the five nominations for the 1991 BAFTA awards and in the two awards given for the best documentary series and best photography. Between 1987 and 1990 Marion Zunz had produced "Growing Up", "Courtship", and "Continuing the Line" in that series.

From 1979 to 1990 at the BBC Natural History Unit, Bristol, Marion Zunz had worked on the series *The Discovery of Animal Behaviour*, *Animal Magic*, *Monkey Business*, *The Wildscreen Awards* and similar series. Among her memorable productions were "Rainbow Safari" (1983); "Why Dogs Don't Like Chilli" (*The Natural World*); and many of the *Miniature Worlds* documentaries (1987).

She was scientist and philosopher and a genius with the camera. When she left the BBC last year to become an independent producer she had planned a number of programmes which would advance the cause of conservation. She was about to leave for west India to film the last surviving Indian lions in the Gir Forest, which number less than 300.

At the time of her death, Marion Zunz had practically finished a two-and-a-half-year project in which she followed the lives of a family of elephants in Kenya; and she was planning a series of sequels which would continue to follow the individual history of the elephant family.

Perhaps her greatest achievement was the creation of a network of friends and admirers throughout the world whom she brought together in her productions. Her vitality and ideals welded them into a dedicated company producing films which were celebrations of the animal world.

Marion Zunz rejoined in all of life; she flew to Mexico for the World Cup, went ballooning, had a pilot's licence, and recently did a parachute jump for charity. On Sunday, she left a final note on her desk diary at home: "Going skiing-WHOOPER!" On Sunday, she fell off the mountain.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. Benett and Miss A.S. Thomas
The engagement is announced between Philip, only son of Mr and Mrs Eric Benett, of Duffield, Derbyshire, and Anna, only daughter of Dr and Mrs Peter Thomas, of Solva, and Swindon, Wiltshire.

Mr K.E. Berenson and Miss V.M.L. Thomas
The engagement is announced between Kevin, only son of Mr and Mrs E.F. Thomas, of Duffield, Derbyshire, and Victoria, only daughter of Dr and Mrs Peter Thomas, of Solva, and Swindon, Wiltshire.

Mr J.C. Bushby and Miss A.C. Pridemore
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, only son of Mr and Mrs John Bushby, of East Horsley, Surrey, and Anna, only daughter of Mr and Mrs James Pridemore, of Wimbledon.

Mr P.S. Cook and Miss L.A. Baker
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr A. Cook and Mrs M.L. Cook, of Cranborne, Dorset, and Louise, only daughter of Mr and Mrs T.N. Baker, of Poole, Dorset.

Mr E.J. Coombes and Miss S.A. Loftham
The engagement is announced between Benjamin John, eldest son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs J.D. Coombes, of Solihull, Salisburgh, Wiltshire, and Sally Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs Rex Loftham, of Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire.

Mr M.M.B. Corley and Miss A.J. Hargreaves
The engagement is announced between Martin, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Roger Corley, of London, and Amanda, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Hargreaves, of St Andrews, Fife.

Mr J.M.J. Derry and Miss M.E. Fox
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, younger son of Dr and Mrs J.A. Derry, of Bishopton, Rutland, and Mary, daughter of Mrs J.M. Fox, of the late Mr W.J. Fox, of Barham, Kent.

Mr D.C.R. Glascock and Miss A.J. Fettes
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr D.C. Glascock, of Hales, Ayrshire, and Anne, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.G. Fettes, of Weavering, Maidstone, Kent.

Mr N.R. Goodwin and Miss S.M. Smith
The engagement is announced between Richard, eldest son of the late Mr N.K. Goodwin, of Mrs S.A. Goodwin, of Crowthorne, Berkshire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.E. Smith, of Morecambe, Lancashire.

Mr M.R.E. Graves and Miss A.D. Rhodes
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs R.E. Graves, of Canon Frome, Herefordshire, and J.W. Rhodes, daughter of Captain J.W. Rhodes, of Long Road, Somerset, and Constance Flavia Stamps, of Monmouth, Gwent.

Mr P.M. Harris and Miss E.D. Rosalind
The engagement is announced between Peter, only son of Mr and Mrs Douglas Harris, of Plymouth, Devon, and Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Oswald Rosalind, of St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Captain C.J. Hay and Miss C.J. Windsor
The engagement is announced between Charles John, the Gordon Highlanders, younger son of Dr and Mrs John Hay, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, and Caroline Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Graham Windsor, of Hanham, Bristol.

Mr N.G. Hinchwood and Miss E.C. Henderson
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, younger son of Mr and Mrs N.G. Hinchwood, of Cardinale, Rye, Braughing, Hertfordshire, and Evelyn, younger daughter of the late Mr Bruce Edmund Henderson and of Mrs Margaret Henderson, of Kurrang Hills, NSW, Australia.

Mr E.J. Hopkins and Miss K.E. Johnston
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs E.J. Hopkins, of London, NW1, and Mrs A.T.U. Park, of Old Weston, Cambridgeshire, and Katrina Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip G. Johnston, of Hong Kong and Scotland.

Mr J.A. Kennedy-Pain and Miss C.A. Bassett
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Dr and Mrs N. Kennedy-Pain, of Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, and Caroline, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Holloway, of Kassiopi, Corfu.

Dr T.J.W. Kenny and Miss E.A. Holloway
The engagement is announced between Julian Mark, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Keith Miller, of Brierley, Surrey, and Vanessa, daughter of Dr and Mrs David Lloyd-Jones, of Leeds, Yorkshire.

Mr D.M. Peterman and Miss S. Nicol-Wade
The engagement is announced between David Michael, son of Mr and Mrs Wolfe Peterman, of London, and Suzanne, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Thomas R. Wade, of Bermuda and USA.

Mr M.H.R. Portman and Miss A.G.S. Beach
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs A.S.B. Portman, of Upton, Andover, Hampshire, and Alison, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R.A. Beach, of Mitcham, Gloucestershire.

Mr S.W. McCauley and Miss S.J. Davis
The engagement is announced between Scott William, son of Mr and Mrs R.G.S. McCauley, of Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, and Samantha Jane, eldest daughter of Mr Keith Davis, of Glasgow.

Mr J.A.T.C. Mansueto and Miss C.H. Mayfield
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs John Mansueto, of Greenfield Farm, Lurgashall, West Sussex, and Caroline, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Robert G. Donald, of Exmouth, Devon.

Mr C.D. Miller and Miss C.P. Marston-Smith
The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of Major David Miller, of Pyrford, Surrey, and the late Mrs Mariegold Miller, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Marston-Smith, of Bournemouth, near Bristol.

Lieutenant J.M. Miller, RN and Miss V. Lloyd-Jones
The engagement is announced between Julian Mark, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Keith Miller, of Brierley, Surrey, and Vanessa, daughter of Dr and Mrs David Lloyd-Jones, of Leeds, Yorkshire.

Mr D.M. Peterman and Miss S. Nicol-Wade
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The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs A.S.B. Portman, of Upton, Andover, Hampshire, and Alison, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R.A. Beach, of Mitcham, Gloucestershire.

Mr J.H. Price and Miss J.M. Lessey
The engagement is announced between John, second son of Mr and Mrs J.H. Price, of Kent, and Julia, younger daughter of Commander and Mrs J.K. Lessey, of Tillingham, West Sussex.

Flying Officer S.M. Reed, RAF and Miss J.V. Donald
The engagement is announced between Stuart, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Reed, of Hemel Hempstead, and Jane, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Robert G. Donald, of Exmouth, Devon.

Lieutenant N.G. Road, RN and Surgeon Lieutenant P.A. Mansueto, RN
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, younger son of Captain R.H.C. Road, RN, and Miss Ruth, of Godminster, Brunton, and Penelope, daughter of Commander A. Mansueto, OBE, RN, and Mrs Mansueto, of Carme Abbey, Dorset.

Mr C.A.L. Skinner and Miss C.E. Heywood
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Skinner, of Winchester, and Carol Elizabeth, daughter of Group Captain and Mrs Derys Heywood, of Deddington, Oxfordshire.

Mr D.C. Spargan and Miss R.S. Servant
The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J.M. Spargan, of Chaldon, Surrey, and Robert, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs T.E.H. Servant, of Caterham, Surrey.

Mr L.S. Thornton-Kensley and Miss G.M. Stevenson
The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Mr and Mrs Nigel Thornton-Kensley, of Thornton, Lancashire, and Gracie, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Stevenson, of St Andrews, Fife.

Mr K.D. Tompkins and Miss R.J. Wynne
The engagement is announced between Keith, youngest son of Mr and Mrs K.D. Tompkins, of Bedford, and Rachel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Owen Wynne, of Livingston, Buckinghamshire.

Dr J.W. Trouncher and Miss J.S. Rostrom
The engagement is announced between Ian William, younger son of Dr and Mrs J.W. Trouncher, of Dordrecht, The Netherlands, and Julie Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Stuart Rostrom, of Wootton Rivers, Wiltshire.

Dollar soars in hectic trading

Pound falls outside the ERM limits

By OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

THE pound was pushed outside the limits of the exchange-rate mechanism yesterday evening as the dollar soared on world markets in hectic trading. The dollar gained more than five pence against the mark after traders decided that the currency's six-month decline had ended and that the end of the American recession was in sight. The move caused havoc in European currency markets and briefly pushed the pound outside its limit against the peseta for the second time this week. In late afternoon, sterling touched a low point against the mark of DM2.8283. The position was quickly corrected as the pound recovered, although central banks refused to intervene to calm the market gyrations as they are only obliged to maintain the ERM rates between 8am and 4pm. Yesterday's fall and the one on Wednesday are the only times the pound has breached its 6 per cent band in the ERM since it joined in 1990. During the day, the pound lost almost three cents

against the dollar in trading in the late afternoon to reach \$1.8450 at the official 4pm close. The fall cut 0.4 off the pound's trade-weighted index, and it closed at 91.0. Against the mark, however, it gained marginally during the day to reach DM2.8404, against an opening of DM2.8395. In late trading the pound slumped a further three-and-a-half cents, and by 1.30pm in New York it stood at \$1.81. The dollar was the main feature of the day as it climbed steeply against major currencies, particularly the mark, where it rose to reach DM1.5660, its highest since American interest rates were cut last month, and more than 5 pence above its closing point on Wednesday night. The rise was said to be sparked by heavy buying by Wall Street investment houses. The dollar's strength buoyed investors in the equity market where share prices were again racing away helped by a firmer start to trading on Wall Street and better than expected American economic news. The FT-SE 100 index closed just below its best of the day with a rise of 30.8 at 2,497.9 in active trading which saw more than 700 million shares change hands. Many of the early gains were inspired by demand on the futures market where the March series continued to trade at a healthy premium. But later in the day dealers reported the presence of some good two-way business as

fund managers began making selective purchases. Dealers said the dollar's sharp rise may mark a turning point in its six-month fall. In July, it reached a peak of \$1.60 against the pound and DM1.8430 against the mark. George Bush's successful visit to Japan, encouraged dealers to think that an export drive will start to improve the American economy, while his apparent recovery from illness on Wednesday calmed fears about his health. The optimism was encouraged by official American figures which showed prices paid by wholesalers falling 0.2 per cent in December to give an 0.1 per cent fall for the year, the first annual decline for five years. The encouraging news on the inflation front to a large extent reflects lower prices. Other data showed a 22,000 jump in those claiming unemployment benefits in the week to December 28. The data were seen as increasing the chance of a fresh interest rate cut soon. Dealers are now waiting to see the official American unemployment figures today. Paul Chertkov, the chief currency strategist for Citibank, said the dollar had reached the bottom of its fall. "Now we are really seeing a market of the opinion that the situation in Germany is worse than we thought a year ago and that the US recession is not the end of the world."

Rolling stock: Alistair Mitchell-Innes, group chief executive of Isosceles, which plans a stock market flotation within three years

Gateway on fast track to flotation

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ISOSCELES, parent company of the Gateway supermarket group, could be floated on the stock market by early next year, Ernest Sharma, the group's chairman, said yesterday. The group made a pre-tax profit of £17 million (£700,000) in the six months to November 9. After trading and financing losses of £13 million at Hermans, the American sports company, are taken into account, the profit is £3.9 million, compared with a loss of £12.3 million. The profit takes into account the £1.8 million paid to David Smith, the former chief executive, and his partner Liz Hignall when they left in September. Sales fell 4.4 per cent to £1.6 billion and the interest charge on the group, which has £1.3 billion of debt, was £83.3 million, down from £99 million. The net margin at the Gateway stores rose from 5.8 per cent to 6.29 per cent but the group lost volume and market share. Like-for-like sales, before inflation, were down 2 per cent. Alistair Mitchell-Innes, the group's chief executive, said that most of the group's £100 million capital expenditure would go on developing its Somerfield chain. There are 14 Somerfield stores, with double that planned by the April year-end. By the end of next year, there will be about 60 Somerfield branches, mostly through Gateway conversions. At the other end of the scale, the group has opened 15 Food Giants, a discount chain developed to make better use of the 20 Gateway superstores. Volumes have quadrupled at some stores. Hermans, which is up for sale, made a trading loss of £7.2 million, up from a £4.8 million loss. Sales fell from £305 million to £297 million. Mr Sharp refused to say how much the group expected to get for the business, which is valued in the balance sheet at £200 million. The group is due to repay £158 million of debt in the next two years, with £100 million due in April next year. Mr Sharp said the group was confident of paying.

Junk-bond rating for Ratners

FROM GILLIAN BOWDITCH IN LONDON AND PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

STANDARD & Poor's, the American credit rating agency, has downgraded Ratners Group's American shares by five points, giving them a speculative grading and putting them on a par with junk bonds. The rating has been placed on Creditwatch, which means it may be lowered or raised in the near future. Gerald Ratner, chairman and chief executive of the jewellery group, will make a full statement to the London Stock Exchange this afternoon outlining profitability and Christmas trading. The

later is believed to have been exceptionally poor. He will also announce the appointment of a new chairman but will remain as chief executive. After the statement, Ratners will meet its bankers to renegotiate loan covenants. Ratners' American credit rating may change again after the announcement. If the group decides to pass the dividend on its preferred stock, which analysts believe is highly likely, the rating may fall further. William Chambers, S&P analyst in New York, said:

"This ranking reflects the uncertainties we feel over whether the dividend payment on the variable preference shares will be met in cash on January 15. Ratners has the option to roll over the dividend payment, but this rating is based on their ability to pay it on time and in cash." The City had been expecting S&P to downgrade Ratners by two points at the most. A five-point downgrading is unusual but not exceptional, S&P said. Ratners' £250 million variable-term preferred Ameri-

can depository shares have gone from a BBB rating to a B rating, down two categories, but five points when pluses and minuses are taken into account. Chin Gan, S&P's London spokesman, said: "Any rating below a triple B minus is a speculative grade. Junk bond is a collective term for anything below a double B plus." Last night, Mr Gan said S&P had asked Ratners for information but had not yet received it. He added: "Ratners is basically a strong business which has been temporarily hit by exceptionally bad trading. There is uncertainty surrounding the availability of credit facilities. The rating may change again once we have more information and we see whether they intend to pay the preference dividend."

UK analysts said the downgrading is likely to cost Ratners about \$10 million a year in extra payments. The downgrading took 1/16 of a dollar off Ratners' American share price to \$17.10. The preference shares were unchanged at \$4.125 just after the news.

BCCI admits racketeering in \$550m Washington plea deal

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of Credit and Commerce International has formally pleaded guilty to racketeering charges in a Washington court, and agreed to forfeit \$550 million in seized assets. The plea was made by Brian Smouha, the partner from Touche Ross who is masterminding the liquidation of the collapsed bank. Earlier in New York, Lloyd's of London and the Panamanian government failed to block the plea bargain, when a bankruptcy court refused to intervene in the criminal proceedings against the bank. The insurance market and Panama oppose the fine as they are suing the bank for up to \$62 million. The fine will leave the bank with negligible assets in America. Lloyd's is also trying to overturn the plea bargain in the criminal court in Washington. Joyce Hens Green, the judge, has decided to delay her decision on whether to accept or reject the plea deal between the bank's liquidators and federal authorities until January 24. The insurance market is suing the bank for up to \$30 million to cover its legal costs in a case against Munther Bilbeisi, one of the bank's largest customers. The case centres on a \$4 million insurance claim made by Mr Bilbeisi on a coffee shipment. Lloyd's underwriters have refused to pay and taken legal action against Mr Bilbeisi, who is now living in Jordan. Panama is trying to recover \$32.5 million, which it alleges was stolen by Manuel Noriega, the former Panamanian president, and deposited in the bank. The plea bargain and the

fine are essential to BCCI's liquidation, in which the Abu Dhabi government, the bank's majority shareholder, has agreed to inject up to \$4 billion into the bank to allow depositors to recover up to 40 per cent of their funds.

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Major and Kohl unite over Gatt

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major and Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, agreed in their first conversation of the new year that it is vital to reach agreement as early as possible in the deadlocked world trade talks. Downing Street said the half-hour exchange by telephone yesterday focused on the Uruguay Round on free trade, under negotiation for more than five years. Fears mounted during the Christmas break that the lack of progress in narrowing the gap between America and the European Community over farm subsidies could threaten the whole ambitious deal. Remarks by President Bush during his Pacific tour suggested that America might seek its own solutions rather than the multilateral option offered by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which is chairing the talks. However, No 10 said there was a "shared determination on the part of not only Kohl and the prime minister, but also President Bush to reach agreement". Intervention by John Major came ahead of the meeting in Brussels today and tomorrow of EC ministers of trade and agriculture aimed at thrashing out a Community stance before trade negoti-

ations resume at Gatt's Geneva headquarters on Monday. The Geneva gathering will hear formal government responses to the take-it-or-leave-it draft text for an agreement presented on December 20 by Arthur Dunkel, the Gatt director-general. Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, told *The Times* that Community ministers would have to determine what their common position was if they wanted to "adjust" the Dunkel proposal on farm subsidies. Despite the firm rejection by France of the draft text, Mr Lilley said any final settlement would have to be "very close" to the existing proposal. Stressing the need to keep the Dunkel package essentially intact, he said urgent progress was needed.



Kohl: determined

Royal Mail in van of better driving

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

AS ANY late-night London commuter knows, some Post Office van drivers have style all their own. While it is encouraging to know that the Royal Mail is doing its best to continue improving first class delivery times, an excess of zeal can be intimidating to other road users. Relief is in sight, however. The Post Office will launch a national training programme next month for its 50,000 drivers. A spokesman dismissed suggestions that Royal Mail drivers were typically worse than any other group, but he acknowledged that their vehicles are easily recognised, and that it was only too easy for a few "boy racers" to give the rest a bad name. Tony Howell, the Royal Mail's distri-

bution development manager, said: "A business our size has a commitment to the community to ensure our drivers and vehicles are of a high standard." Alongside that commitment is an eye to the bottom line. Accident repairs cost the Post Office £11 million a year. Fuel for the 35,000-strong vehicle fleet costs a further £35 million. Even a modest reduction in the accident rate, or improvement in fuel economy, could increase profits considerably. Until now, Royal Mail districts have been responsible for their own driver training, which can sometimes amount to just half an hour's instruction. The Post Office, in conjunction with the Union of Communication Workers, the Freight Transport Association, and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, has now produced two videos to train drivers, as well as offering pro-

grammes on topics such as the Highway Code, transport law, drivers' hours and tachographs. Short of instructing depot managers to tell drivers through traffic in unmarked cars, it will clearly be difficult for Royal Mail to know every driver's shortcomings. But a spokesman was confident that accident records, gossip and observation would provide a good indication of where to start. "The supervisors keep a close eye on them," the spokesman said. "They know what goes on." The driver training scheme, called Maildrive, has already attracted interest from other companies. Commuters and others may hope it is also soon made available to drivers of hired vans, second-hand Alfa Romeos, and Ford Cortinas with dice dangling from the mirror.

TODAY IN BUSINESS

BA AND KLM

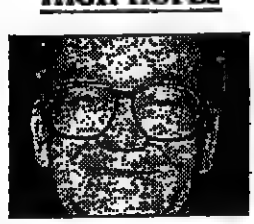


Lord King has yet to confirm that British Airways and KLM are in merger talks but the Dutch airline says it is ready to surrender its independence. Page 21

TRAILBLAZER

Toys 'R' Us, the world's largest retail toy chain, is blazing a trail in Japan and is at the sharp end of America's trade talks. Page 22

HIGH HOPES



Roger Wiggs, Securicor's chief executive, has high hopes for a tracking device that can help locate motorists in distress. Page 21

TOMORROW

PROFILE



Bob Tyrrell, head of the Henley Centre for forecasting, likes to describe himself as a man who gets to the future before the rest of us.

CHILD CARE

The campaign to get extra tax concessions on the cost of child care is gathering pace. Lindsay Cook looks at the arguments.

Good news if you're retired.

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مكتبة من الكتب

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8450 (-0.0280)
German mark
2.8404 (+0.0009)
Exchange index
91.0 (-0.4)

Bank of England official
close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
1904.8 (+18.9)
FT-SE 100
2497.9 (+30.8)
New York Dow Jones
3216.91 (+12.97)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
23113.64 (+398.64)

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.8450
£ DM 2.8404
£ Sfr 2.5309
£ FF 6.5712
£ Yen 230.14
£ Indec 91.0
ECU 1.71752
ECU 1.39307
London forex market close

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10 1/4%
3-month interbank 10 1/4%
3-month eligible bills 10 1/4%
US: Prime Rate 6 1/4%
Federal Funds 4 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bill 3 7/8-3 7/16%
30-year bonds 10 1/2-10 3/4%

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$351.75 pm \$351.52
close \$353.50-354.00 (\$192.40-192.90)
New York
Comex \$356.75-357.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) ... \$17.15 bbl (\$17.25)

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RPI: 135.6 November (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

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Industry orders ease fears of recession in Germany

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

FURTHER evidence that Germany is not about to slide into recession came yesterday from the economic ministry.

Industrial orders in November rose 0.2 per cent, according to provisional data released by the ministry. The figure is consistent with other statistics published this week, showing the economy recovered at the end of last year.

Jürgen Möllemann, the economics minister, said the figures showed that domestic demand remained stable.

There has been a shift towards domestic orders, which in November rose 2 per cent from October, while foreign orders fell 3 per cent. The fall in foreign orders appears to be a direct consequence of the mark's strength, particularly against the dollar.

The improving news, however, might affect the present wage round and boost trade union demands for substantial wage increases. Some unions, including the metal workers, have demanded pay rises of more than 10 per cent, a move that has been criticised by the government and the Bundesbank for endangering monetary stability and economic growth.

Fears that Germany would enter recession grew last year after two consecutive falls in gross national product during the second and third quarters, but the economy seems to have recovered in October and November.

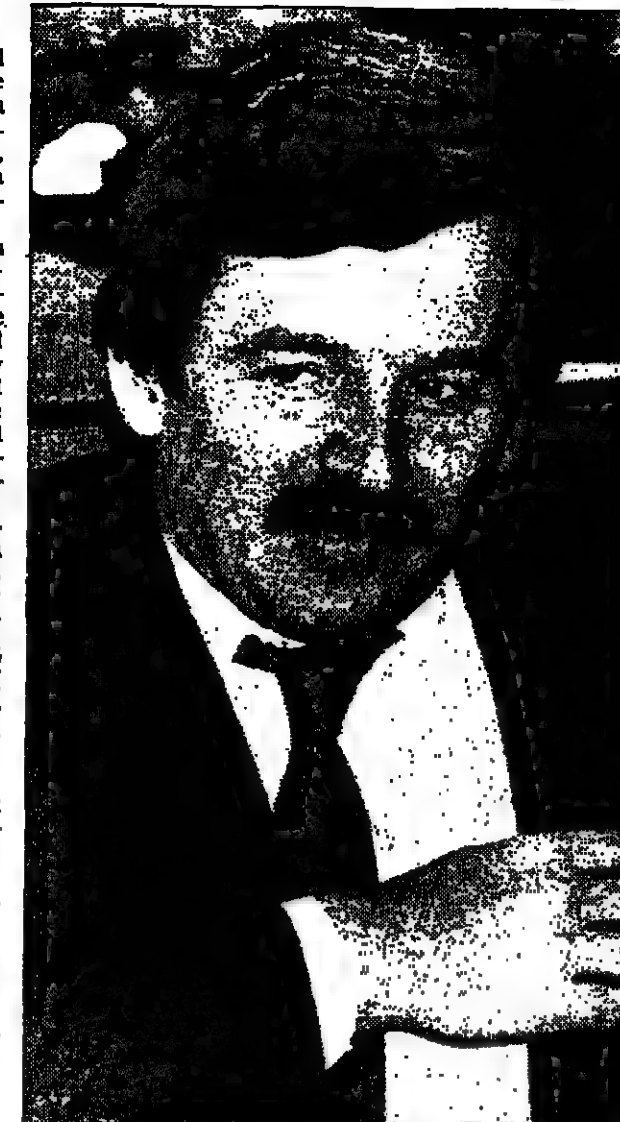
The economics ministry announced a 1.2 per cent in-

crease this week in industrial output, the third successive monthly rise. However, on a year-to-year basis, industry orders were down 3 per cent, which is a consequence of a slowing down of post-unification demand in the economy.

Despite the slowdown in economic growth last year, unemployment in western Germany remained broadly stable during December. The federal office for labour said yesterday that the seasonally adjusted jobless figure for last month was 1.67 million, compared with 1.68 million in November, and 1.72 million in December 1990.

In eastern Germany, unemployment rose marginally in December, to 1.04 million, affecting 11.8 per cent of the workforce. However, a big increase is expected this month because of the phasing out of special short-time work regulations. The federal office for labour has estimated that unemployment this month could go up to 1.4 million.

The jobless figures do not include hidden unemployment. According to data released yesterday, more than two million east Germans took part in special schemes, designed to soften the transition to the free market economy. These include special job creation and training programmes, and also an early retirement scheme, which was taken up by 705,000 east Germans by the end of December, averaging 520,000 for the year.



Stable domestic demand: Jürgen Möllemann

Clarke Foods to return with cash call

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

SHARES in Clarke Foods will return from suspension today, when the ice cream producer unveils details of a rights issue to part-finance the purchase of Lyons Maid. The shares, which are quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, have been suspended at 54p since September, when the ice cream company became the second biggest producer in Britain — after

Birds Eye Walls — with the acquisition of Lyons Maid, from J Lyons & Company, Allied-Lyons's food division.

Clarke Foods is understood to have paid about £12 million for Lyons Maid. Henry Clarke, the chairman, turned Yelverton Investments, the investment company quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, into Clarke Foods last February through the purchase of three ice cream plants from Hillsdown Hold-

ings. The enlarged ice cream group will have nearly 20 per cent of the market in the United Kingdom, with an annual turnover that is estimated to be "meaningfully increased" above the current £70 million.

Clarke Foods unveiled pre-tax profits of £1.13 million (£903,000) for the year to the end of October on a turnover of £11.2 million.

There was an exceptional credit of £230,000. Earnings

per share rose to 6.2p (5.2p), with diluted earnings per share of 5.7p (4.7p). The company proposes an increased final dividend of 1.5p (1.25p), making an improved total of 2.25p (2p) for the year.

Mr Clarke said the company is currently carrying out a significant re-equipment programme, costing in excess of £10 million, in the West Midlands in order to update its existing facilities.

Freemans to buy Dutch business

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

FREEMANS, the Sears home shopping business, is to acquire ter Meulen Post, the Dutch mail order group, for less than £5 million.

The deal is the latest in a series of European acquisitions and joint ventures by Sears and is its first mail order deal since it lost the bid battle for Gratia to Otto Versand.

ter Meulen Post is the fourth largest mail order house in The Netherlands, with a turnover of £33 million and a 6 per cent share of the Dutch mail order market.

Freemans is buying the group on a discount to net assets. ter Meulen's 700,000 customers are spread throughout The Netherlands and northern Belgium, and the products offered by the group complement Freemans'.

There will be some integration of ter Meulen Post's business with Freemans, but product management, marketing, order taking and customer service will remain in The Netherlands. Warehousing operations will be transferred to the UK.

The Dutch group has made losses in recent years, but Freemans expects it to break even in the current year, after a restructuring, and to contribute to profits in 1993.

ter Meulen Post will be used as a base to develop Sears' mail order business in Europe.

Michael Pickard, Sears' chief executive, said he expected to double the Dutch business in the next two to three years.

The sophistication of Freemans' mail order systems is such that the group will deliver to Dutch homes from warehouses in Britain and still cut delivery time by two-thirds.

The acquisition of ter Meulen Post should be completed within the next two months, and Sears is interested in acquiring more European mail order businesses.

Sears shares rose 4p to 96p on the news.

BUSINESS ROUND UP

Swiss Bank acquires US futures house

SWISS Bank Corporation is buying the O'Connor Partnerships, one of America's leading futures and options houses. The deal is the culmination of a joint venture between the two companies, established at the end of 1990 and trading in currency, interest rate and equity options.

The cost of the transaction has not been published, but Swiss Bank is thought to have paid a high price — O'Connor has taken a leading role in the development of America's futures and options markets since its formation in 1977. The firm specialises in proprietary trading and complex arbitrage transactions. It has been hampered recently by a lack of financial resources, however, and SBC — one of the few triple-A credit rated banks in the world — will give it the capital base to expand its operations. As part of the deal, SBC will ask the Federal Reserve Board for permission to deal in securities.

Jones Stroud slips

JONES Stroud (Holdings), supplier to the textile and electrical industries, reports a fall in pre-tax profits from £2.7 million to £2.49 million in the six months to end-September, despite an increase in turnover from £30.1 million to £31.9 million. Peter Jones, finance director, said there had been some improvement in recent months and profits for the full year were expected to exceed last year's. There was an interest deficit of £104,000, against a credit of £52,000 last time. Earnings slip from 9.53p to 9.19p per share, but the interim dividend is maintained at 3p.

Dewhurst lifts payout

DEWHURST, the electrical control equipment maker, is raising its final dividend to 1.2p (1.1p), making an improved total of 1.8p (1.7p) for the year, despite a 37 per cent decline in full-year profits. Pre-tax profits fell from £1.02 million to £642,810 in the year to end-September, on turnover slightly down from £7.85 million to £7.81 million. Earnings slipped to 4.03p (5.99p) per share. Dewhurst said that profitability showed "substantial improvement in the second half in very difficult trading conditions". The company expects continued recovery in profitability. The shares firmed 1p to 47p.

Druck advances 13%

DRUCK Holdings, which makes electronic pressure measuring devices, has reported a 13 per cent advance in first-half pre-tax profits, which rose from £2.14 million to £2.41 million in the six months to end-September. Turnover grew 32 per cent to £13.5 million, boosted by a first time contribution from Maywood Instruments. John Salmon, chairman, said Druck had won a number of new orders. Earnings per share climbed 13 per cent to 23.3p and the interim dividend is raised from 2.8p to 3.4p. The USM-quoted shares jumped 38p to 788p.

Merchant shares dive

SHARES in Merchant Retail Group, the discount supermarket and department store operator, lost a third of their value on a profit warning over "difficult trading through the Christmas period". Profits for the year to March 28 are now forecast at £1.7 million, compared with analysts' previous expectations of about £3 million. The company said that although sales had generally been maintained over Christmas, net margins had come under pressure. The Normans discount food warehouses were particularly hard hit, the company said. The shares fell 10p to 21p.

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS



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Corporate sales in Europe outstrip US

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

EUROPE became the largest hunting ground for international corporate buyers last year, as the world's largest companies jostled for position in the run-up to the single market in 1992.

According to figures published by KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, the accounting and consultancy firm, the value of cross-border sales of EC companies in 1991 was \$23.3 billion, compared with \$20.3 billion for North American companies. This is the first time that

EC corporate sales have exceeded those in North America. In 1990, EC cross-border sales were \$41.9 billion, well below the North American total of \$54.8 billion.

As in 1990, Britain was by far the most popular European target for foreign acquirers, with 252 companies worth \$9.1 billion snapped up over the 12-month period.

However, even that figure was dwarfed by the \$18.7 billion worth of US companies sold to foreign companies during the year.

Overall, the numbers and value of cross-border deals last year was the lowest for at least four years, with the recession and the Gulf War being blamed for the slump. In value terms, the fall was 55 per cent to \$51.9 billion.

The peak year was 1989, when there were deals worth \$130.6 billion, a rise from the \$118.7 billion in 1988. Although directly comparable figures are not available for pre-1988, it is likely that 1987, another busy year for mergers and acquisitions, also exceeded the 1991 figure.

The larger end of the M&A spectrum was particularly hard hit in 1991, with only five cross-border deals worth more than \$1 billion completed, against 23 in 1990.

Richard Agutter, head of KPMG's international M&A network, said he did not expect a significant increase in activity in the current year.

The prediction will come as further bad news to the City's corporate finance community. Fees earned by London investment bankers, accountants and solicitors from bids fell from £180 million to £145 million last year. The year was 1989 when an estimated £800 million was earned.

The largest cross-border deal in the world last year was the \$3.7 billion purchase of Executive Life, an American insurance company, by a consortium of European financial institutions. The largest involving a British company was the acquisition of Ivory & Sims (Luxembourg) by Aberdeen Trust for \$1.1 billion.

Much of last year's takeover activity was concentrated in the last quarter of the year, when there were deals worth \$15.1 billion. The first quarter, which saw the outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf, was the quietest since 1987, with \$9.7 billion.

Mr Agutter said: "The upturn at the end of the year is welcome, but it is too small to be taken as an indicator that the cross-border M&A market is recovering."

British cross-border acquirers, the most active in the world three years ago accounting for 36 per cent of deals in 1988, reduced their level of activity even more sharply than the market as a whole.

The \$6.3 billion of deals by UK companies was only 12 per cent of the total. In 1990, UK companies spent \$20.6 billion on foreign firms, or 17.5 per cent of the total.



Safety in numbers: Roger Wiggs, flanked by guards of Securicor, which yesterday announced tests on a device to help stranded motorists

Securicor lifts payout despite profits slide

BY MARTIN WALLER

SECURICOR Group, the security and parcels delivery business, is testing a device used to foil security van robberies for application in the private motor market, where it would locate motorists lost and in danger.

The group reported a slump in pre-tax profits from £51.9 million to £33.0 million in the year to end-September, while Securicor Services, the 51 per cent-owned subsidiary, recorded a fall from

£36.1 million to £20.4 million. Securicor is paying a 1.72p final dividend and Securicor Services 3.19p, making totals of 2.336p and 4.488p respectively, a 10 per cent rise over the previous year's payouts.

Securicor is carrying out trials of its Datatrak electronic tracing device for application in the private motor market. The product has been available to the security van market for almost two years.

Datatrak can trace the ge-

away direction and eventual whereabouts of a stolen security van. Roger Wiggs, Securicor's chief executive, estimated the device had saved at least £3 million by thwarting a number of attacks over the past year.

Market research suggests about a fifth of the 8 million AA and RAC members might be interested in the product at the estimated price of a few hundred pounds. Mr Wiggs said: "It might be very useful for old, infirm or disabled people and single

women who might be marooned in their cars on a country lane." The location of those people would be passed to the relevant motoring organisation. However, Securicor says it is early days for the extension of the device's market.

The Datatrak business is still making a £4 million a year loss and is at least two years away from break even.

The Securicor and Securicor Services figures were badly hit by the woes of the retail sector. The company also runs a business that distrib-

utes cellular phones to retailers and relies heavily on shops for its cash-in-transit security operations. The parcels delivery service was badly hit by recession.

An upturn in the months since the financial year end, linked to the tendency for retailers to stock up for Christmas, was likely to fade in January and February, given the poor sales before the holiday period, said Mr Wiggs.

Times, page 22

Brown & Jackson sales up

Brown & Jackson, the beleaguered retail group that owns Poundstretcher, reported sales in the last five weeks of 1991 of £38.2 million, up 11 per cent on the same period last year. Towards the end of 1991, Poundstretcher reduced stock to 13 per cent below both targeted stock levels and those existing at the end of 1990.

In December, the group, whose chairman, Bryan Duffy, resigned in October, failed to pay the six-monthly dividend on its convertible preference shares.

Bemrose cuts

Bemrose, the printing company chaired by David Wigglesworth, the chairman of the economic situation committee of the CBI, is to shed 27 jobs with the closure of its loss-making credit card operation.

Torex's loss

Torex Hire reported a pre-tax loss of £216,000 (profit: £436,000) for the year to end-October and has halved its final dividend to 0.4p, making 0.4p (1.6p).

Abbey jumps

Abbey, the Dublin house-builder, reported interim pre-tax profits up from £567,000 to £1,367,000 (£343,000). Once again, there is no interim dividend.

Bid decision

Pittencreeff has conceded defeat in its £4 million hostile bid for AmBrit International to the rival £7 million offer from United Energy.

Symonds rises

Symonds Engineering's interim pre-tax profits rose from £82,794 to £123,523. The interim dividend is held at 0.3p.

AWA expands

Arjo Wiggins Appleton is planning a \$170 million expansion at its pulp and paper mill in Wisconsin.

No reference

Blockbuster Entertainment's acquisition of Cityvision will not be referred to the monopolies commission.

KLM offers to sacrifice name for BA merger

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

DUTCH airline leaders are prepared to give up the name KLM to achieve a merger or close cooperation with British Airways.

Peter Bouw, KLM's chairman, said in Detroit yesterday that he was prepared to surrender total independence to achieve the link. "Eventually, co-operation with British Airways may mean that the KLM name disappears," he said. Mr Bouw believes that a "common structure and identity" is inevitable. "A consequence of co-operation talks is that parts of your independence must be given up," he said.

Mr Bouw said that KLM and BA have found a solution to any problems that a tie-up to third-country landing rights, but did not specify details. "The financial structure (of the planned deal) is exceptionally interesting. It contains many innovative elements," he said.

British Airways has refused to be drawn on the talks with KLM, maintaining that to do so would run the risk of censure from the Stock Exchange.

It is known, however, that senior officials within the airline do not believe that any deal is imminent and that a



Bouw: link inevitable price for such a link has still to be thrashed out and approved by both sides.

They are convinced that only when the single European market is fully in place and airlines are free to make alliances with each other within Europe will any merger become a reality. They believe this situation could be anywhere between three and seven years away.

The original idea was to link KLM, British Airways and the American carrier Northwest and to create giant hub airports in Amsterdam and Detroit from which, it was hoped, the airlines could at least battle on equal terms with American and United.

The talks are unlikely to be concluded until the regulatory climate becomes clearer in Brussels.

Date set for ecu tender

BY OUR ECONOMIC CORRESPONDENT

THE government took its plans to develop the depth and liquidity of the London ecu market a step further with the announcement yesterday that the first tender of Treasury notes denominated in the basket currency will be held on January 21. Treasury bills in euros have been available since autumn 1988.

The Bank of England said the first tender would be for a nominal £cu1 billion (£719 million) of three-year notes to be sold on a bid-yield basis. Ecu notes will be sold at regular quarterly tenders, generally on the third Tuesday of the first month in the quarter. The second tender will be held on April 21. Amounts and maturities will be announced at least four days in advance.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, unveiled his plans for the large ecu-note issues in the Mansion House speech on October 31. The issues are for reserves management purposes, but they will also enhance the City as a world financial centre. Tenders for the notes will be for a minimum £cu500,000.

The notes will bear an annual coupon, which will be derived from the results of the tender and will be rounded to the nearest 4 per cent below the highest accepted yield.

The Bank said 30 institutions had undertaken to act as market makers.

Engineering chiefs expect Tory defeat

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S engineering chiefs believe the Conservatives will lose the next election over their handling of the economy.

Respondents to the quarterly trends survey in *The Engineer* magazine indicated by a margin of more than two-to-one their belief that the Conservatives would not win a further term.

Most of the 442 senior managers surveyed appeared disenchanted with the Tories, although, the magazine says, many are traditionally inclined to support the Conservative party. One third of the

respondents thought that manufacturing would be better off with the Conservatives.

However, a quarter thought industry would do better under Labour. Forty-two per cent offered no opinion on which party would benefit manufacturing the most.

Managers' doubts over the Conservatives' electoral prospects emerged against the background of a renewed slump in optimism over engineering companies' business prospects. Four months ago, managers signalled a recovery of confidence.

Brent oil slumps to lowest in 11 months

BY MARTIN BARROW

THE price of oil continued to fall sharply on world markets as Iraq continued talks with the United Nations, aimed at reaching an accord that would allow the resumption of Iraqi oil exports.

The benchmark February Brent fell 24 cents to an 11-month low of \$16.68 a barrel, although support emerged in late trading in London, lifting the price to \$16.85.

Energy analysts said the recent collapse increased pressure on the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to reduce oil production swiftly. Traders believe prices could fall below \$16 dollars as the peak winter quarter draws to a close.

Talks between Iraqi officials and the United Nations continue today in Vienna but are unlikely to produce agreement on the resumption of Iraqi oil exports.

One concession the Iraqi delegation appears to have won is agreement in principle that when exports do resume they can flow through either the Turkish pipeline to the Mediterranean export terminal of Ceyhan or to Mina al-Bakr in the northern Gulf. The original UN resolution had stipulated that the Turkish terminal could be the sole exit point for Iraqi oil.

Capital cost overruns and production disruptions hit Britain's oil industry in 1991, forcing the net cash flows of some companies into the red and hitting oil output. County NatWest WoodMac, the broker, said.

Capital spending rose to £5 billion in 1991 from £3 billion in 1990, with higher development activity causing a 10 to 20 per cent rise in costs above projected levels due to tightness in the offshore service industries.

United Kingdom oil production, including onshore output, fell to 1.84 million barrels per day from 1.88 million in 1990. County said in its January *North Sea Supplement*.

Drilling activity fell off, with 173 exploration and appraisal wells spudded. Twenty exploration wells were successful, yielding an estimated 430 million barrels of hydrocarbon liquids and 2,600 billion cu ft of gas discoveries. Overall, 18 per cent more oil and gas were consumed last year than were discovered.

Shell Expro said production at its United Kingdom North Sea North Cormorant and Eider oil platforms, suspended since January 2 because of weather damage, had resumed overnight and will build to normal levels. Recent average output has totalled 80,000 bpd. Shell Expro is a 50-50 joint venture between the Royal Dutch Shell Group and Exxon Corp.

Salomon staff exit likely after bonus cuts

BY NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SALOMON Brothers is bracing itself for a wave of resignations as many of its staff look for other jobs after suffering cuts in their annual bonuses.

The American securities firm is expecting a high turnover of staff as part of its reorganisation after the scandal of its illegal Treasury auction bids. The expected departures follow a shake-up that has left the firm's senior management almost unrecognisable from that in place a year ago.

When Salomon's top executive committee line up to have their picture taken for this year's annual report, only three of the nine faces will be the same as a year ago.

Deryck Maughan, who was then the newcomer in the team, is now chief executive. Leo Higdon, the head of investment banking, is also still there, as is James Mas-



First to go: (from left) John Gutfreund, Thomas Strauss, and John Meriwether, the head of the firm's international operations. The latter includes Salomon's palatial offices above Victoria station in central London.

The other faces of a year ago left in rapid succession. John Gutfreund, the chairman, Thomas Strauss, the president, and John Meriwether, a vice chairman, departed when details of the

scandal first broke in August. Stanley Shopton, the head of equity trading and a legendary block trader, left in November after Mr Maughan decreed that the firm should abandon its block trading business and forced him to sell two stakes at a substantial loss.

Last month saw the resignation of Jay Higgins, once head of investment banking, after he was excluded from Mr Maughan's all-powerful executive committee.

Throughout the firm, the traditional hard-bitten Salomon manager is being replaced by a more cerebral type. Eric Rosenfeld, the new head of the US Treasury desk, was previously an assistant professor at Harvard Business School, while Martin Leibowitz, the head of

research, is an author of books on market theory.

The shake-out is also likely to spread through the firm's management. Several of Salomon's executives were given clear hints to leave last month, when they received derisory bonuses.

The firm's overall bonuses were cut by an average of 9 per cent, even though its profits and the return on equity increased, but many have suffered far worse. In 1990, Salomon paid 106 employees more than \$1 million each and Mr Maughan and Warren Buffett, the chairman, have made it clear that this is too much.

The changes are beginning to spread to the London dealing room. Last month saw the resignation of Ian Hanham and Nicholas Bedford, the head of equity syndication and equity sales, and the creation of three new managing directors to fill their place. Other executives are known to be talking to headhunters.



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THE TIMES

Heavy breaths at Liffe

The merger of the London International Financial Futures Exchange (Liffe) and the London Traded Options Market (LTOM) may finally be sanctioned, possibly today. If so, it will start with a disappointing whimper rather than any great expectations. The big integrated securities houses, on which recovery and expansion of London options dealing depends, have declined to commit themselves to making markets in the full range of 67 options on individual shares in the merged exchange, despite hectic efforts over the past four weeks by Michael Jenkins, chief executive of Liffe, to drum up support. If the delayed merger does go ahead, as both Liffe and LTOM still expected last night, it will be thanks to two or three specialist options houses backing the venture.

This is bad news. For better or worse, these financial derivatives play an increasingly important role in the investment strategies of financial institutions around the world. Liffe's early success has mirrored this. The market had another record year in 1991 but badly needs an invigorated options market to boost contracts on share indices. This would help maintain London's prime position as a European centre for the fast-expanding but also fast-changing range of futures and options contracts. By the end of last year, Liffe was not far ahead of the Matif, its government-promoted French rival, in trading volume. The Matif has stolen a lead in the small but burgeoning euromarkets and Liffe's most active contract, in German government bonds, is under attack from German interests determined to repatriate the centre of trading to Frankfurt. The expanded Liffe badly needs to establish a commanding lead over any rival in equity-based contracts.

The sullen attitude of the London's big securities houses is not creditable to them or to the planning skills of Liffe and LTOM. It reflects the big firms' desire to convert the options market to fully electronic screen trading, as already practised in Switzerland. This could protect their anonymity and therefore their ability to generate double profits from broking and market-making. The open outcry market, traditional both in Liffe and LTOM, may be better for customers but history looks to be on the side of screen-trading. The argument should have been settled long before this stage of the merger process, which has thrown up far more technical and basic difficulties than its sponsors seemed to have imagined.

Creaking ERM

Idiosyncrasies in the European exchange rate mechanism, highlighted in this column yesterday, turned into potentially damaging absurdity when the dollar suddenly broke from its torpor in one of those thinly justified but exaggerated movements characteristic of foreign exchange markets in the late 1980s. Having feared for the president's "one moment" dealers, instantly realising what most observers must have been: a predictable outcome of his Tokyo talks. Back in Europe, the ERM system could not cope with such rapid movement. Most of the business was, as usual, in dollar/mark and dollar/sterling trades. The minor currencies were left out, making their quotations rapidly out of date. The effect on the nominal cross-rates that make up the ERM system sent the peseta and, even more, the Belgian franc, apparently reeling ahead. Sterling briefly burst its band even though the crucial sterling/mark rate was little changed. Such obscure technicalities should not matter. In nervous markets they can damage the pound and with it the British economy.

The soft option presents hard choices for London

Big Bang could be smothered in the row over soft commissions, costing London its leading financial role, says William Kay

Many of the changes pushed through in the Big Bang deregulation of 1986 could be undone as the result of a bitter row developing over an obscure area of stock market practice. The issue could even inflict lasting damage on London's standing as an international financial centre.

Last month, Sir David Walker, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board published *Soft Commissions - Recent Developments*, a modest consultative paper. Soft commissions refer to the practice whereby stockbroking firms provide research, screen information and other relevant services to institutional fund managers in return for a guaranteed flow of orders to deal in securities. As the broker puts no direct price on the ancillary services, payment for them is described as being in soft money.

This oblique way of doing business resulted from the removal of fixed rates of commission on the New York stock market in 1975. Commission rates were driven down to a level that related to brokers with the lowest costs. Once commission rates hit rock bottom, other brokers could compete only on service, just as airlines charge the same fares but try to provide better food and comfort. When minimum commissions were abolished in London 11 years later, the same thing happened.

The SIB paper reported: "It appears that during the course of 1991, the market share of those integrated houses offering soft commission arrangements... has markedly increased." It adds that the issue of soft commission had "elicited continuing debate". That is an understatement. Integrated houses are those, led by Warburg, which include broking and market-making, and therefore can use economies of scale and overheads to offer much better softing deals, as they are called, than a stand-alone broker.

Independent brokers, who provided the SIB into publishing the *Issue Paper*, accuse some of the integrated houses of trying to drive them out of business by offering softing deals without charging adequate commission. The deals, they claim, are subsidised by excessive profits on market-making.

Warburg will not comment on such claims, though it makes little secret of its dislike of soft commissions. BZW has tried to avoid complaints by setting up Thamesway, a soft commission broking company, away from its market-making. However, the practice has been sanctioned by the SIB, largely on the grounds that it is impossible to stamp out. The integrated houses also feel under threat. Any more measures to control soft commis-



Softly-softly: David Walker's modest report notes that soft commissions have caused debate

sions could force them to choose between softing and their dual capacity, which allows them to act as brokers and market-makers.

The sheer ill feeling behind the softing row could result in the London Stock Exchange revoking the 1986 reforms, which allowed member firms to act both as brokers and market-makers. London might then suffer at the expense of rival stock markets in Europe, lose its lucrative trading in shares of international companies and its leading role as a financial centre.

At the core of the controversy is best execution, a cardinal principle of any self-respecting stock market. Brokers must obtain the best price for their client when executing a deal. This is defined as the price on the yellow strip on stock exchange trading screens, which shows the best buying and selling prices for a stock notified by market-makers.

The suspicion is that, when integrated houses offer an institution a particularly attractive softing package, they are really doing so by keeping some of the price advantage they have obtained for the client. As the SIB put it: "We felt there had to be a point at which the amount of commission left after payment to third party service providers would not be sufficient to cover normal

brokerage services of execution, clearing and settlement."

Nigel Johnson-Hill, of Hoenig & Co, an American-owned soft commission broker that offers clients bought-in services, said: "The SIB is completely wet. All you've got to do is to match the strip to meet best execution, and everyone knows that half the business on the stock market is done inside the strip price."

In other words, a broker can negotiate direct with market-makers a higher selling price or lower buying price than the best notified on the screen. Warburg stoutly denies that it does anything other than make best use of its economies of scale and internal efficiencies to obtain the best softing arrangements for its clients.

The Office of Fair Trading can undertake its own investigation if it is dissatisfied with the SIB's eventual solution. An OFT spokesman said: "We have no objection to soft commissions per se. Much depends on how the system operates. One possibility might be to require brokers to offer better than the best on the yellow strip. But there may be no best solution."

Many fund managers are fed up with the controversy, but they are sometimes accused of conflict of

interest in soft commission deals, because they obtain the free services while their clients often pay the commissions as well as any lost benefit of dealing at the best price.

Warren Coleman, compliance officer with Prolific Financial Management, said: "Best execution is not just the best price a broker can obtain. Continuity and dealing with the people you have confidence in: these are all elements in softing." The independent houses, however, fear that, unless the SIB steps in, they are going to be mopped up by the big firms.

Just before Christmas, Javelin Securities, a soft-commission broker formed by a buyout from Hoenig, sold itself to Samuel Montagu, part of Midland Bank. Clive Sinclair-Poulton, the senior partner, claimed that European Community capital adequacy requirements were a more decisive factor than the threat of losing business to integrated houses. However, he claimed that brokers in integrated houses were unfairly making up losses on softing deals by pushing all the business through their own market-makers.

While such accusations persist, and neither side is willing to give way, Sir David will be pushed towards drastic action to resolve the hard question of soft commissions.

AMB fires big gun in battle with AGF

Observers are always amazed at the range of defence mechanisms that German companies have at their disposal to fend off hostile foreign predators. This week saw the launch of the bluntest of all weapons: management's right to disenfranchise a shareholder by refusing to register the shares.

This happened to Assurances Générales de France (AGF), the state-owned French insurer, which this week built up a stake of just over 25 per cent in Aachener und Münchener Beteiligungs AG (AMB), Germany's second largest insurance company after Allianz. However, AGF can only vote 9 per cent, and the management of AMB refuses to let it go higher, because AGF is considered hostile and does not fit into AMB's grand European strategy. This strategy involves a European insurance joint venture with Royal Insurance of Britain and Fondiaria of Italy, to exploit the European insurance market outside the three companies' home markets, in particular in the fast-growing eastern European market.

Plans are well advanced and an announcement is expected in two months. The only obstacle appears to be AGF, and there are fears in Germany that AGF could use a 25 per cent voting stake to block such a venture and pursue the east European expansion all by itself.

From AGF's point of view, this would make sense. Of the four, AGF has by far the largest non-domestic EC business. However, it is virtually unrepresented in the German market, Europe's largest, and with the approach of the single European market in insurance from 1993 onwards, AGF wants to remedy this.

The odds appear to be stacked against AGF. The management's right to refuse to register shares is enshrined in AMB's articles of association, and *prima facie* this is also in tune with German equity law. AGF could launch legal action, either by questioning the law or the way it has been applied, or it could persuade shareholders to change the articles of association. The first action could take years, the second would require a 75 per cent majority, which would be difficult to establish, particularly against the recommendation of management. AMB's seems determined not to allow AGF to obtain a 25 per cent *Sperminorität*, which would give a veto on essential resolutions.

This all revives memories of the battle between the Pirelli and Continental tyre companies, which Pirelli lost because of a clause preventing a single shareholder's vote exceeding 5 per cent. Hostile bids stand little chance in Germany, and it would require EC legislation to solve the present impasse. The EC is preparing such legislation, but it is questionable whether this will result in a liberal regime. What is certain is that the case of AGF/AMB will not be the last example of German corporate stonewalling.

WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
European Business Correspondent

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Floating palaces

AS INVESTIGATORS puzzle over the latest twist in the Robert Maxwell saga, the late businessman's 180-ft motor yacht, *Lady Ghislaine*, is running up costs of \$70,000 a month at its mooring in Palma. Six potential buyers have expressed an interest in the luxurious vessel, which has a \$25.5 million price tag, but none has taken the plunge as yet. Whoever does buy the vessel, which was formerly available for charter at \$30,000 a day, will inherit an annual maintenance bill of \$2 million, which includes mooring and maintenance costs of at least \$70,000 a month. "It costs that just sitting in harbour," says Nicholas Edmiston, managing director of Camper & Nicholson, the yacht broker and charter specialist, who will reveal nothing about the interested suitors other than ruling out Chinese or Japanese buyers "for superstitious reasons". Edmiston, who lives in Monaco and enjoys shooting in Scotland — "I've done so much business that way" — is naturally keen to see *Lady Ghislaine* sold for a good price. His company charges 10 per cent commission on sales and is hence in line for \$2.5 million if it secures a buyer for the yacht. Edmiston, meanwhile, hints that Camper & Nicholson may seek a listing on the London stock market when the next upturn comes. The company is trying to sell yachts worth \$100 million — including the \$22.5 million *Belle France* and the \$30 million *Stephane* — but buyers have been keeping a low profile.



"It's your 10 per cent dividend rise"

JUSTICE Edwin Torres, a New York State Supreme Court judge, noted for his terse comments when passing sentence, told a convicted corporate fraudster, this week: "Your parole officer has not yet been born."

SI not out

HIGH jinks and high spirits will be the order of the day at the Marine Club at Lloyd's today as Jimmy Herbert, the oldest active member of the London stock exchange, celebrates his 81st birthday. Herbert, who prides himself on being at his desk at Branstone & Gothard, the stockbroker, at 7.30 every morning, takes over the mantle of oldest member from Marcus Colby, who, sadly, died last month at the age of 88. Herbert will join 28 friends and colleagues for the birthday lunch, which has been an annual fixture for years. Originally held at the Moorgate Wells Club, it moved to the Quintessence restaurant, at Hays Galleria,

for a brief spell before switching back across the river to its present site. Demi Mias, a director of the Marine — one of the oldest luncheon clubs in the Square Mile, with entrances in both Leadenhall and Lime Street — and an old friend of Herbert's, will be serving a favourite City dish — steak, kidney and mushroom pudding.

STICKER seen on a car on the M4 motorway: "Help stamp out philatelists."

In the stars

DON NOT sell your American dollars just yet. President Bush, who, according to City was eating quail, should, despite his collapse, more than pull through. In their predictions for 1992, just published, two Los Angeles-based psychics claim that Bush will remain in office for some time to come. Judy Heavely reckons that he will be re-elected in a landslide victory after introducing huge tax cuts that "will spur America's greatest economic boom ever". Florence Vay is equally confident, except for one thing. She predicts that vice-president Dan Quayle will set fire to the White House after accidentally knocking over a candelabra at a state function.

Revenge is sweet

DENIS Healey, who suffered more than his fair share of maulings at the hands of the international financial community when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Seventies, has at last been given an opportunity to turn the tables — and he is seizing it with both hands. As one of

the guest speakers at a conference being hosted this month by Telerate, for international bankers and foreign exchange experts, to examine the challenges now facing the forex market, Healey is clearly going to be in no mood for diplomacy. As a taster, asked to give his thoughts about forex market-makers, he says: "The markets are operated by a mafia of gilded young lemmings who have square eyeballs because they never look at anything except a computer screen; they are interested only in numbers and they never relate the numbers they look at to the economic realities which lie buried at the bottom of this heap of numbers." Inflammatory stuff...

Russell's tune

AT A time when the recession in Birmingham and the West Midlands has caused accountancy firms in the area to cut back, one of their number, Neville Russell, is branching into the world of showbiz. The firm has launched an entertainment division named NR Sound Management — no surprises there — and has cut its first demo single on behalf of Lumen Christi, a local gospel group. The choice of medium may be a little curious considering that Tony Silvester, the head of the music division, was business manager in the early Eighties to Duran Duran — as "rockish" a group as one is likely to find. "We will be advising on design as well as general management," says Silvester, a former partner of Arthur Young, who joined Neville Russell last August.

JON ASHWORTH

BUSINESS LETTERS

Merits of final salary pensions

From Mr M. E. Gaisford
Sir, Mr Brown's letter (Business section, January 8) on the merits of final salary pension schemes, requires some qualifications.

Firstly, companies do not establish such schemes out of charity, but for the sound business reason of attracting and keeping the right staff. The employer's contributions are effectively no more than delayed salary.

Secondly, they have a number of potentially serious disadvantages, the most significant being that a pension based on final salary may become almost worthless due to inflation, unless there are built-in safeguards. This has been an extremely serious problem for many pensioners of such schemes over the past 20 years; in the scheme of which I am a member, a pensioner who retired in 1970 on a pension of £100 per month has to date lost well over £30,000 in today's money due to under-indexation... and this is one of the better schemes! Even though the fund is well able to afford compensation for those very

real losses the trustees (all company employees) have decided to use 93.5 per cent of the surplus for contribution holidays for the company and employees, plus enhanced benefits for current employees. Any compensation for the poor old pensioners — the shortfall in whose pensions has contributed largely to the present surplus — has been ruled out.

Moreover, there are very serious abuses in the "manipulation" of the final salary figure, particularly for the most senior directors and employees to provide them with enhanced pensions out of all proportion to their contributions.

Provided that these, and other, problems can be overcome, then I am essentially in agreement with Mr Brown. But until we have the necessary safeguards, for which legislative action is urgently required, the pensioner is still very much at the mercy of his former employers.

Yours faithfully,
M. E. GAISFORD,
Amberley, Southern Lane,
Sudbrooke, Lincoln.

Cannon fodder for the banks

From Mr C. Little
Sir, Having recently closed a business down and agreed in January 1991 a schedule of monthly repayments of loan and overdraft based on my ability to pay, the new bank manager has now written stating the payments must be increased and the interest charge raised from 2 per cent over base rate to 4 per cent over base rate.

When protesting and asking why — "because the value of your property has fallen it

is now an unsecured loan". We agreed 3.5 per cent above base rate to be reviewed in April 1992.

Why do I feel, like many other business people who are paying off their debts on a regular basis, that we are being used as cannon fodder by the banks to prop up their profits because of their exposure to people like Maxwell.

Yours,
C. LITTLE,
Telecommuter Recruitment,
96 The Greenway, NW9.



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Portfolio

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your share price movements on the day. Add them up to give you your daily dividend. If it's a bonus, you'll see it on the back of your card. The bonus is a share of the daily dividend money. It's 100 pence, so the bonus is a share of the daily dividend money. The bonus is a share of the daily dividend money. The bonus is a share of the daily dividend money.

No.	Company	Group	Share	Price	Dividend
1	British Telecom	Telecom	100	100.00	10.00
2	British Airways	Airline	100	100.00	10.00
3	British Petroleum	Oil	100	100.00	10.00
4	British Gas	Gas	100	100.00	10.00
5	British Steel	Steel	100	100.00	10.00
6	British Sugar	Sugar	100	100.00	10.00
7	British Water	Water	100	100.00	10.00
8	British Airways	Airline	100	100.00	10.00
9	British Airways	Airline	100	100.00	10.00
10	British Airways	Airline	100	100.00	10.00

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily dividend for the weekly dividend of £4,000 to tomorrow's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN

The £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Mr Colin Longbottom, of Leeds.

1991/92 High Low Company Price + - % YTD % P/E

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	+ -	% YTD	% P/E
1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	+ -	% YTD	% P/E
1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	+ -	% YTD	% P/E
1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	+ -	% YTD	% P/E
1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	+ -	% YTD	% P/E

1991/92 High Low Company Price + - % YTD % P/E

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	+ -	% YTD	% P/E
1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	+ -	% YTD	% P/E
1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	+ -	% YTD	% P/E
1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	+ -	% YTD	% P/E
1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	+ -	% YTD	% P/E

1991/92 High Low Company Price + - % YTD % P/E

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	+ -	% YTD	% P/E
1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	+ -	% YTD	% P/E
1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	+ -	% YTD	% P/E
1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	+ -	% YTD	% P/E
1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	+ -	% YTD	% P/E

1991/92 High Low Company Price + - % YTD % P/E

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	+ -	% YTD	% P/E
1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	+ -	% YTD	% P/E
1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	+ -	% YTD	% P/E
1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	+ -	% YTD	% P/E
1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	+ -	% YTD	% P/E

Shares rise strongly

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 30. Dealings end today. 8 Contango day January 20. Forward bargains are permitted on 10/20/25/30/35/40/45/50/55/60/65/70/75/80/85/90/95/100/105/110/115/120/125/130/135/140/145/150/155/160/165/170/175/180/185/190/195/200/205/210/215/220/225/230/235/240/245/250/255/260/265/270/275/280/285/290/295/300/305/310/315/320/325/330/335/340/345/350/355/360/365/370/375/380/385/390/395/400/405/410/415/420/425/430/435/440/445/450/455/460/465/470/475/480/485/490/495/500/505/510/515/520/525/530/535/540/545/550/555/560/565/570/575/580/585/590/595/600/605/610/615/620/625/630/635/640/645/650/655/660/665/670/675/680/685/690/695/700/705/710/715/720/725/730/735/740/745/750/755/760/765/770/775/780/785/790/795/800/805/810/815/820/825/830/835/840/845/850/855/860/865/870/875/880/885/890/895/900/905/910/915/920/925/930/935/940/945/950/955/960/965/970/975/980/985/990/995/1000/1005/1010/1015/1020/1025/1030/1035/1040/1045/1050/1055/1060/1065/1070/1075/1080/1085/1090/1095/1100/1105/1110/1115/1120/1125/1130/1135/1140/1145/1150/1155/1160/1165/1170/1175/1180/1185/1190/1195/1200/1205/1210/1215/1220/1225/1230/1235/1240/1245/1250/1255/1260/1265/1270/1275/1280/1285/1290/1295/1300/1305/1310/1315/1320/1325/1330/1335/1340/1345/1350/1355/1360/1365/1370/1375/1380/1385/1390/1395/1400/1405/1410/1415/1420/1425/1430/1435/1440/1445/1450/1455/1460/1465/1470/1475/1480/1485/1490/1495/1500/1505/1510/1515/1520/1525/1530/1535/1540/1545/1550/1555/1560/1565/1570/1575/1580/1585/1590/1595/1600/1605/1610/1615/1620/1625/1630/1635/1640/1645/1650/1655/1660/1665/1670/1675/1680/1685/1690/1695/1700/1705/1710/1715/1720/1725/1730/1735/1740/1745/1750/1755/1760/1765/1770/1775/1780/1785/1790/1795/1800/1805/1810/1815/1820/1825/1830/1835/1840/1845/1850/1855/1860/1865/1870/1875/1880/1885/1890/1895/1900/1905/1910/1915/1920/1925/1930/1935/1940/1945/1950/1955/1960/1965/1970/1975/1980/1985/1990/1995/2000/2005/2010/2015/2020/2025/2030/2035/2040/2045/2050/2055/2060/2065/2070/2075/2080/2085/2090/2095/2100/2105/2110/2115/2120/2125/2130/2135/2140/2145/2150/2155/2160/2165/2170/2175/2180/2185/2190/2195/2200/2205/2210/2215/2220/2225/2230/2235/2240/2245/2250/2255/2260/2265/2270/2275/2280/2285/2290/2295/2300/2305/2310/2315/2320/2325/2330/2335/2340/2345/2350/2355/2360/2365/2370/2375/2380/2385/2390/2395/2400/2405/2410/2415/2420/2425/2430/2435/2440/2445/2450/2455/2460/2465/2470/2475/2480/2485/2490/2495/2500/2505/2510/2515/2520/2525/2530/2535/2540/2545/2550/2555/2560/2565/2570/2575/2580/2585/2590/2595/2600/2605/2610/2615/2620/2625/2630/2635/2640/2645/2650/2655/2660/2665/2670/2675/2680/2685/2690/2695/2700/2705/2710/2715/2720/2725/2730/2735/2740/2745/2750/2755/2760/2765/2770/2775/2780/2785/2790/2795/2800/2805/2810/2815/2820/2825/2830/2835/2840/2845/2850/2855/2860/2865/2870/2875/2880/2885/2890/2895/2900/2905/2910/2915/2920/2925/2930/2935/2940/2945/2950/2955/2960/2965/2970/2975/2980/2985/2990/2995/3000/3005/3010/3015/3020/3025/3030/3035/3040/3045/3050/3055/3060/3065/3070/3075/3080/3085/3090/3095/3100/3105/3110/3115/3120/3125/3130/3135/3140/3145/3150/3155/3160/3165/3170/3175/3180/3185/3190/3195/3200/3205/3210/3215/3220/3225/3230/3235/3240/3245/3250/3255/3260/3265/3270/3275/3280/3285/3290/3295/3300/3305/3310/3315/3320/3325/3330/3335/3340/3345/3350/3355/3360/3365/3370/3375/3380/3385/3390/3395/3400/3405/3410/3415/3420/3425/3430/3435/3440/3445/3450/3455/3460/3465/3470/3475/3480/3485/3490/3495/3500/3505/3510/3515/3520/3525/3530/3535/3540/3545/3550/3555/3560/3565/3570/3575/3580/3585/3590/3595/3600/3605/3610/3615/3620/3625/3630/3635/3640/3645/3650/3655/3660/3665/3670/3675/3680/3685/3690/3695/3700/3705/3710/3715/3720/3725/3730/3735/3740/3745/3750/3755/3760/3765/3770/3775/3780/3785/3790/3795/3800/3805/3810/3815/3820/3825/3830/3835/3840/3845/3850/3855/3860/3865/3870/3875/3880/3885/3890/3895/3900/3905/3910/3915/3920/3925/3930/3935/3940/3945/3950/3955/3960/3965/3970/3975/3980/3985/3990/3995/4000/4005/4010/4015/4020/4025/4030/4035/4040/4045/4050/4055/4060/4065/4070/4075/4080/4085/4090/4095/4100/4105/4110/4115/4120/4125/4130/4135/4140/4145/4150/4155/4160/4165/4170/4175/4180/4185/4190/4195/4200/4205/4210/4215/4220/4225/4230/4235/4240/4245/4250/4255/4260/4265/4270/4275/4280/4285/4290/4295/4300/4305/4310/4315/4320/4325/4330/4335/4340/4345/4350/4355/4360/4365/4370/4375/4380/4385/4390/4395/4400/4405/4410/4415/4420/4425/4430/4435/4440/4445/4450/4455/4460/4465/4470/4475/4480/4485/4490/4495/4500/4505/4510/4515/4520/4525/4530/4535/4540/4545/4550/4555/4560/4565/4570/4575/4580/4585/4590/4595/4600/4605/4610/4615/4620/4625/4630/4635/4640/4645/4650/4655/4660/4665/4670/4675/4680/4685/4690/4695/4700/4705/4710/4715/4720/4725/4730/4735/4740/4745/4750/4755/4760/4765/4770/4775/4780/4785/4790/4795/4800/4805/4810/4815/4820/4825/4830/4835/4840/4845/4850/4855/4860/4865/4870/4875/4880/4885/4890/4895/4900/4905/4910/4915/4920/4925/4930/4935/4940/4945/4950/4955/4960/4965/4970/4975/4980/4985/4990/4995/5000/5005/5010/5015/5020/5025/5030/5035/5040/5045/5050/5055/5060/5065/5070/5075/5080/5085/5090/5095/5100/5105/5110/5115/5120/5125/5130/5135/5140/5145/5150/5155/5160/5165/5170/5175/5180/5185/5190/5195/5200/5205/5210/5215/5220/5225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